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Issue 126 October 2016
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Meng's 1:35 scale Renault FT-17

NEW SAMURAI

Tamiya's brand new 1:48 JGSDF Type 10 Tank

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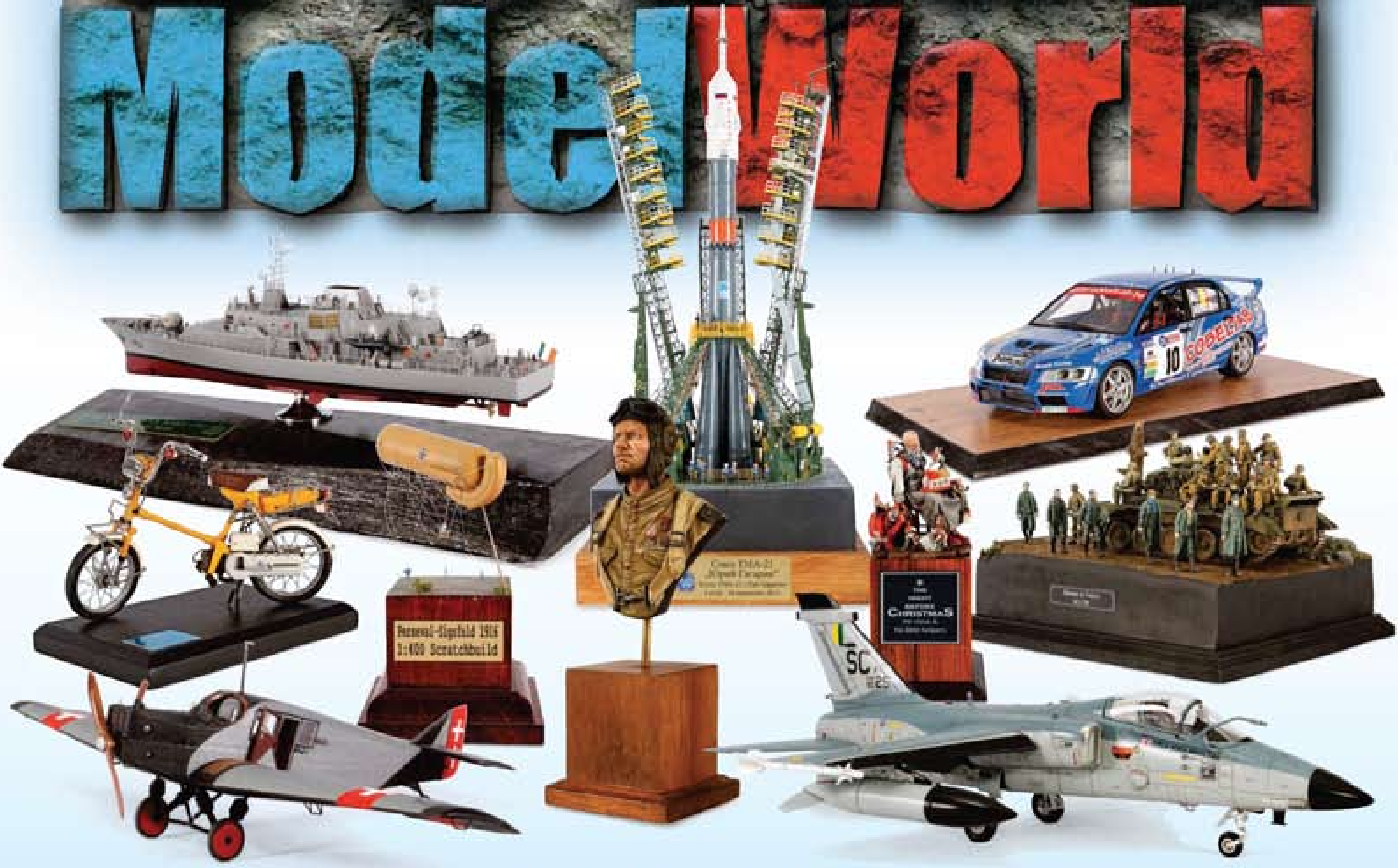

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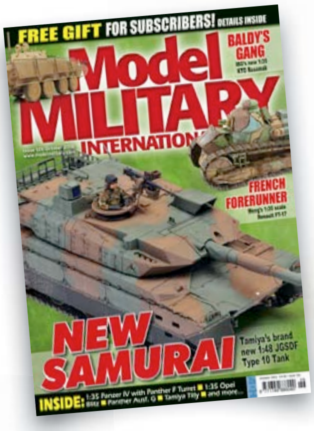
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Fax: (UK) 01525 222574
Email: enquiries@modelmilitary.com
Address: ADH Publishing,
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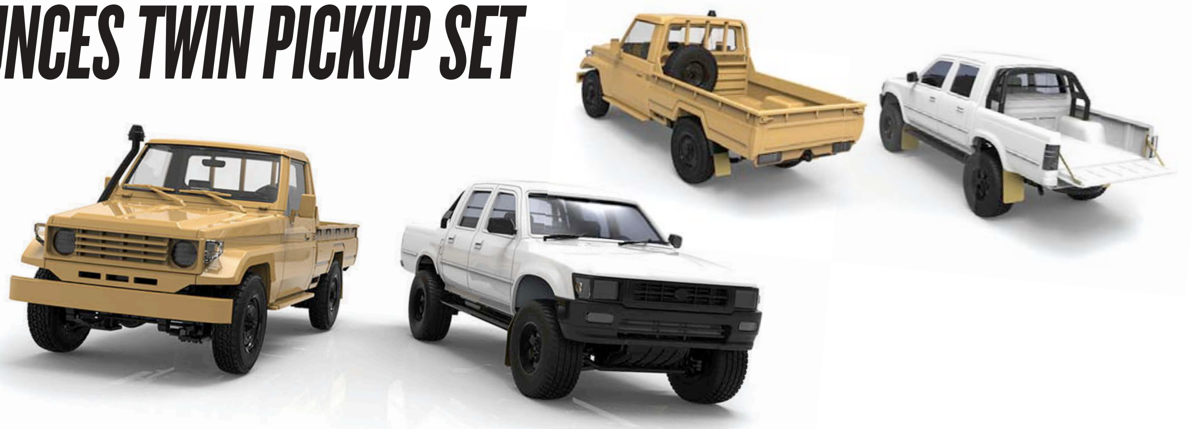
MMI Newsdesk, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill,
Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel:01525 222573 Fax:01525 222574
Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

MENG ANNOUNCES TWIN PICKUP SET



Meng has announced their next release – Item No.VS-007, A 1:35 scale Pickup Set plastic model kit.
We will have more information closer to release.
Thanks to Meng for the images and information
www.meng-model.com

BL35265K AMX-30 B2 UPDATE SET

BL35268F AMX-30B2 CREW SET

BL35270K IDF ACHZARIT STOWAGE

BLAST MODELS NEW RELEASES

Blast Models has announced seven new releases for July 2016:
- BL35265K AMX-30 B2 BRENNUS UPDATE
- BL35266K AMX-30 B2 BRENNUS STOWAGE
- BL35267K AMX-30 B2 BRENNUS UPDATE AND STOWAGE
- BL35268F AMX-30 B2 CREW SET
- BL35269F AFRICAN MILITIAMAN
- BL35270K IDF ACHZARIT STOWAGE
- BL35271F AFRICAN CHILDS

These are all available online from Blast Models' online store.
Thanks to Blast Models for the information and images.

SPARMAX ARISM COMPRESSOR AND SILVER BULLET PLUS

The Airbrush Company has announced the launch of the new Sparmax ARISM viz Compressor, along with rechargeable battery and charger (as an optional accessory). The ARISM viz has a DC motor for universal usage (100-240V), coupled with its small size, it is ideal for travel. Additionally, it is designed to draw less power than comparable AC compressors and is also quieter. The ARISM viz incorporates two new innovative designs from Sparmax, the Smart-Stop, and the Silver Bullet Plus. When used in conjunction with each other the result is a compact, ergonomic, and intuitive compressor for airbrushing.

The Sparmax Silver Bullet Plus is also new in and available to buy separately. This new version combines the moisture filtering effect with a built in bleed valve, creating a multi-functional add-on offering greater control at your fingertips in an ergonomic and compact design.

Available online from The Airbrush Company

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Reference DVDs from Armour Piercing Photography

Armour Piercing Photography, operated by Jason Bobrowich follows up his previous Canadian Leopard 2 DVDs with five new Canadian modern military vehicle based digital reference image DVDs.

Canadian Leopard C2, Main Battle Tank

This DVD contains over 800 high resolution images of Canadian Leopard C2 Main Battle Tanks. The images show extensive details of the hull and turret as well the tanks on parade and undergoing maintenance. Also included are images of the dozer blade, mine rollers, and mine plough. Only a handful of Leopard C2s remain in service in 2016.
The Leopard C2s will soon be retired as the Leopard 2s receive the fittings required to mount implements.

Canadian M113s Part 1 - M113A2 TOW Under Armour and M113A2 Specialized Engineer Vehicle

This DVD contains over 900 images of the Canadian M113A2 TOW Under Armour (TUA) and the Canadian M113A2 Specialized Engineer Vehicle (SEV).
The M113A2 TUA was armed with dual TOW missile launchers and designed as a long range tank killer. The M113A2 SEV fitted with a multitude of Combat Engineer tools provided mechanized support during the implementation and removal of battlefield obstacles.

Canadian M113s Part 2- M113A2 APC, M113A1 ARVL, M113A2 AMB, and M548A1

This DVD contains over 600 images of four variants of M113s that served in the Canadian Army. These retired Canadian M113 variants served their crews exceptionally well in Germany, Croatia, Bosnia, and Kosovo.
As an APC, Armoured Ambulance, Recovery version, or for hauling ammunition and fuel these M113s soldiered on faithfully for decades.

Canadian Taurus ARV and Leopard 2 ARV 3

This DVD contains over 300 images of two types of Leopard based Canadian Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARV). The Canadian Taurus ARVs deployed to Germany, Croatia, Bosnia, Kosovo, and during combat operations in Afghanistan.
The Taurus ARV is quickly being replaced by the Leopard 2 ARV CAN. The two Leopard 2 ARV 3s were obtained specifically for Afghanistan combat missions and have been handed back over to Germany.

Modern Canadian Wheeled Vehicles

This reference image DVD set contains over 1000 images of Canadian modern military wheeled vehicles. Ranging from the early cold war to the modern day a wide variety of wheeled vehicles are presented in this digital format. Over a dozen types of in service, restored, and museum display vehicles are included in this unique image collection.

For more information and for ordering please see the Armour Piercing Photography Facebook page

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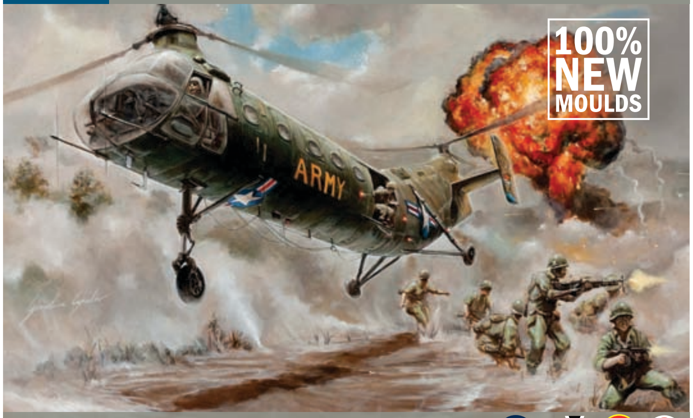

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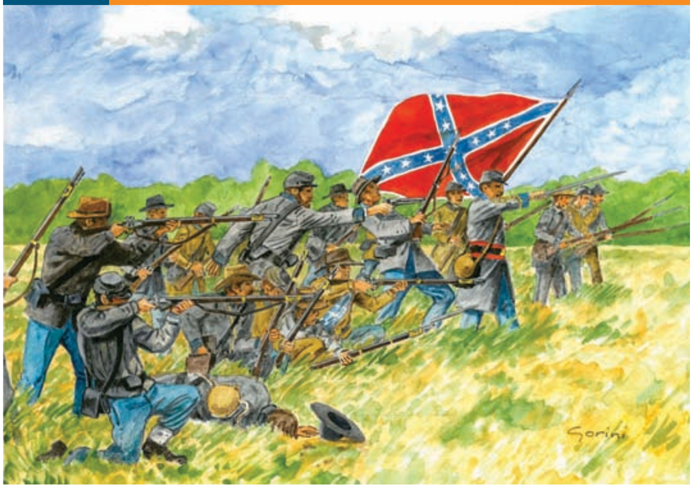
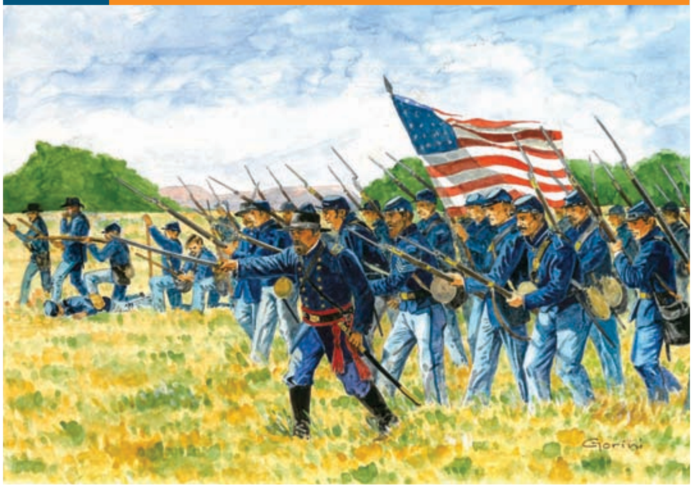


6177 **Union Infantry** American Civil War **1:72**



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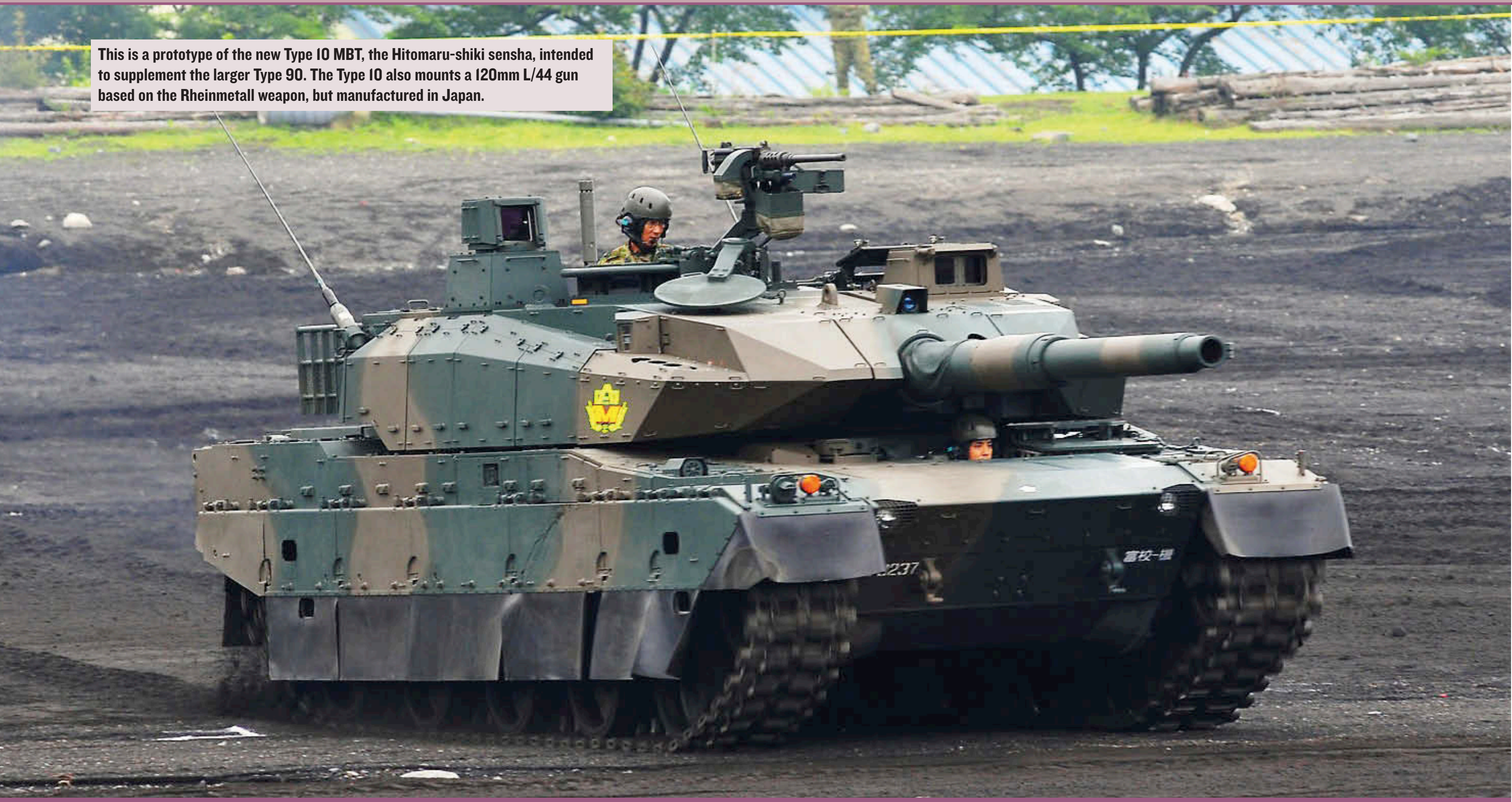


This is a prototype of the new Type 10 MBT, the Hitomaru-shiki sensha, intended to supplement the larger Type 90. The Type 10 also mounts a 120mm L/44 gun based on the Rheinmetall weapon, but manufactured in Japan.

Japanese Type 10 Main Battle Tank

Bruce Culver explores the history of Japanese armour doctrine and the development of indigenous post-war Japanese tanks, culminating in the Type 10.

Japan's use of armour has had a decided yin-yang quality. While the Japanese army was interested in acquiring tanks, for most of the early 20th century, tank development in Japan suffered from low priority and low budgets. In addition, Japan had only recently emerged from an insular feudal society, and was primarily an agricultural nation with a limited industrial base. The bulk of Japan's military buildup in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was concentrated on its most important military asset – the Imperial Japanese Navy. As a seafaring island nation, Japan required the strongest navy possible.

EARLY SUCCESSES

The limited industrial capacity and low priority for tank design forced the Japanese army to concentrate on smaller vehicles like tankettes and light tanks. Early successes in China convinced some army leaders that the light vehicles were useful. Designers did bring about newer and heavier tanks, and some of these, like the Type 95 Ha-go light tank, were technically sophisticated and built with quality materials. Against peasants and the more primitive weapons of the 1930s Chinese army, Japanese light tanks and tankettes performed well, and the lack of heavier armor and effective anti-tank guns was not a concern. The Type 89 and Type 97 medium tanks were seen as sufficient for the war.

The early campaigns against the British and French in Indochina and Malaya also proved the value of the Japanese innovative tactics, using tanks where the British had thought they could not operate. The fight for the Philippines was better matched, as the US forces were equipped with the M3 light tank, which had superior armor and a useful 37mm main gun, capable of knocking out most Japanese armor, including the Type 97 Chi-ha medium tank. The Japanese army was forced to rush early examples of the improved Type 97 Kai (Shinhoto Chi-ha) to the Philippines to deal with the more difficult American tanks.

SETBACKS

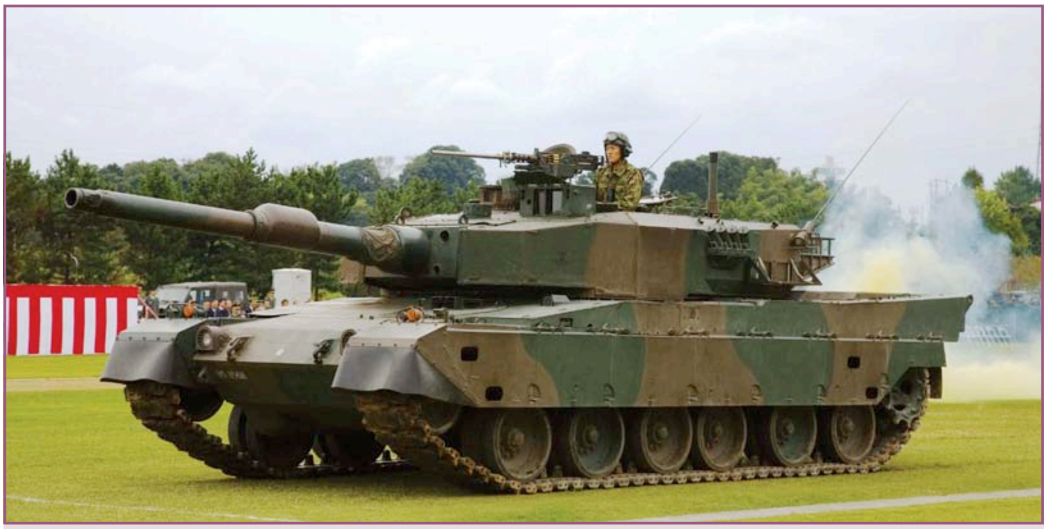
A corresponding problem was the lack of effective tank doctrine. Early in the war, the mere appearance of even light tankettes often caused the opposing forces to retreat, and in China, Japanese forces captured a large part of the country. However, during the fighting in Manchuria against Russian forces, the Japanese suffered a serious defeat as their tank guns could not penetrate the Russian BT tanks, while the BT-5/BT-7 45mm tank guns could penetrate Japanese tank armour at extended ranges, and the fighting in Manchuria took place in mostly open country.

This vulnerability later influenced how Japanese units used their tanks. In some Pacific campaigns, Japanese tanks were used well in infiltrating Allied lines, although when caught in the open, they were usually destroyed quickly. In other fighting, Japanese tank units would attack in a traditional "Banzai" charge, and these almost always resulted in the total destruction of the entire attacking force. Some commanders positioned their tanks in jungle revetments and prepared positions to fire from ambush, and these tactics were often successful because the jungle foliage hid the tanks until the Allied forces had advanced close enough to be within effective range of the Japanese tank guns. In the later campaigns like Iwo Jima and Okinawa, most Japanese tanks were dug into fixed positions to be used as pill boxes, and were usually quickly destroyed.

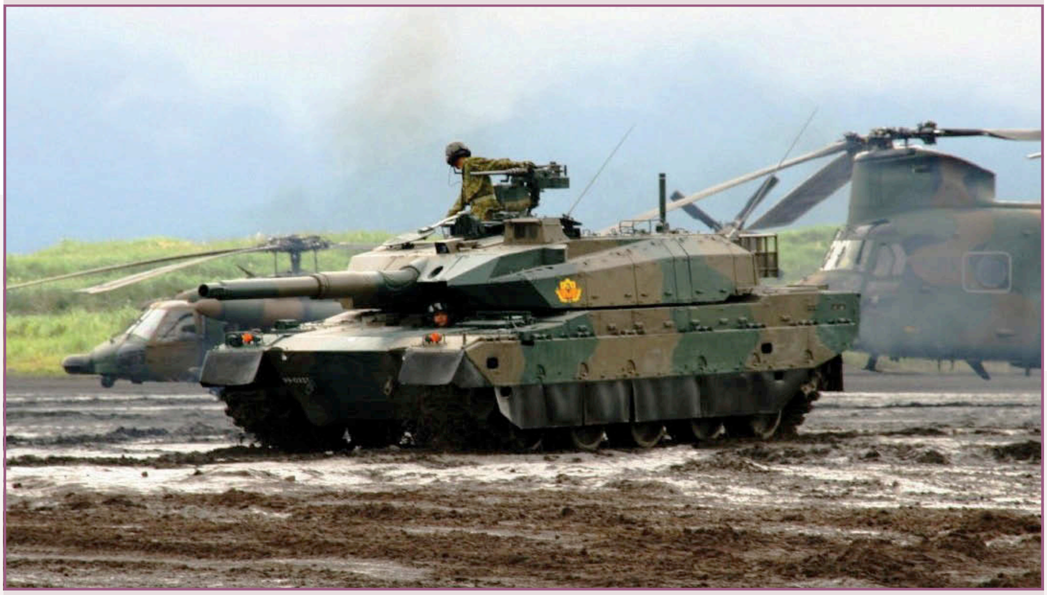
DEMILITARIZATION

Following the surrender of Japan in August 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the military governor of Japan, presided over the demilitarization of the country. Surrendered weapons and military equipment were collected and most of them were scrapped or destroyed. The factories that had produced the weapons of war were dismantled or converted to civilian use, and the Japanese were directed to replace their constitution with a new document that forbade the use of war as a national policy.

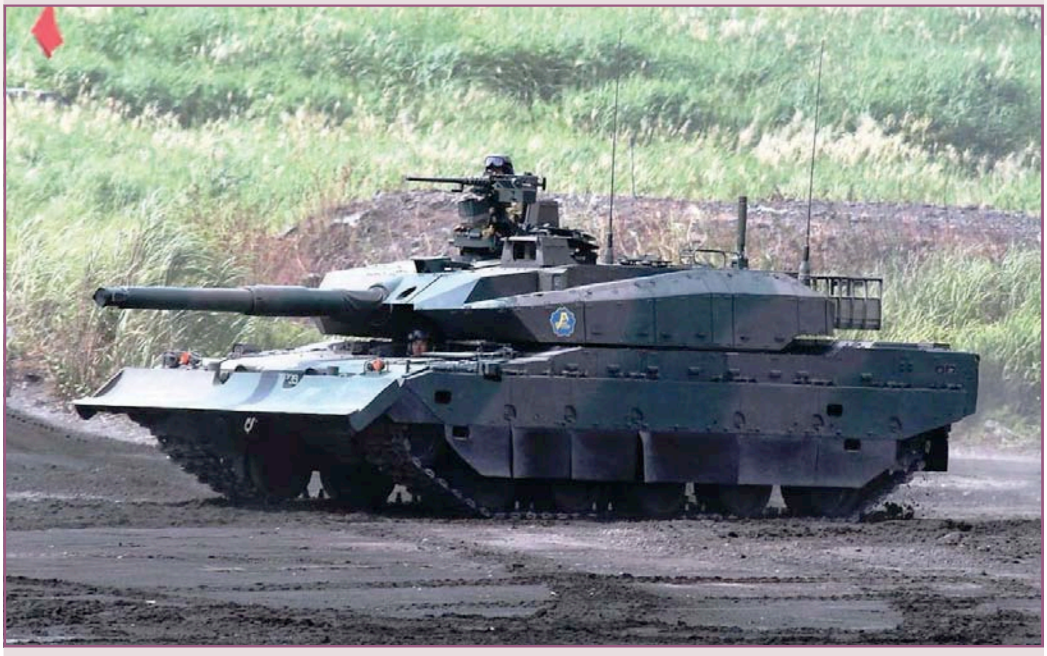
The result of the demilitarization



The Type 90 heavy tank (Kyu-maru) is a modern 50 tonne Main Battle Tank adopted in 1990. It mounts the 120mm Rheinmetall smoothbore gun with an automatic loader. Though an excellent tank, its weight restricts it mostly to the island of Hokkaido.



This prototype was seen at a demonstration of military equipment. The armour has been redesigned to provide maximum protection while reducing the weight of the vehicle. The operating weight of the Type 10 is 48 tonnes loaded.



This prototype Type 10 demonstrates an engineer dozer blade that can be attached to the bow. Note the rubber skirts, used to reduce the dust and mud raised by the suspension. The prototype Type 10 is very similar to the production version.

campaign was that Japan lost her military industry and technical ability to design weapons. The people who had designed the weapons and equipment used in WWII were forced to find jobs in any way they could, and most never again worked in the armaments field. Five years later, when North Korea invaded South Korea, this presented a problem, as Japan had no defensive capabilities. A self-defence force (Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force - JGSDF) was created to provide a basic military defence of Japan, and was given M4A3E8 Sherman medium tanks and M24 Chaffee light tanks as an expedient measure, though they were seen as barely adequate.

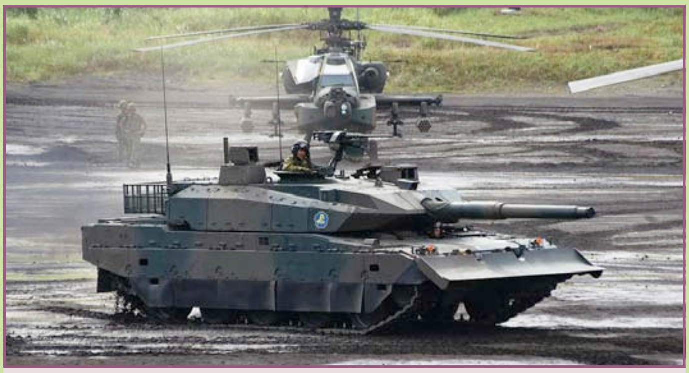
In time, the United States offered the Japanese army the opportunity to purchase the M46 and later the M47 Patton main battle tanks (MBTs), or to develop their own design. In view if the high cost of the US tanks, the Japanese elected to design an indigenous tank, beginning a long relationship with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, down to the present day.

JAPANESE TANK DEVELOPMENT

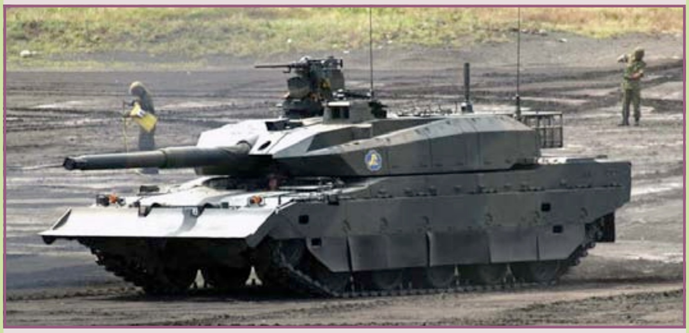
The initial design work was time-consuming, as Japan was rebuilding its industrial base. Development on what would become the Type 61 medium tank started in 1955, and the tank entered service in 1961. It was designed to conform to the smaller stature of Japanese tank crewmen, and mounted a 90mm gun on a cast turret. The gun was not stabilised which limited shooting on the move. The design weight of 25 tons could not be met because of insufficient armour, so the allowed weight was raised to 35 tons. The intent was to transport the tanks on trains or special trucks. Japan built 560 Type 61 tanks and they served from 1961 to 2000.

The limitations of the Type 61 were well-known, and with improvements in Japanese industrial capacity, the JGSDF began work on a replacement in 1962, a year after the Type 61 entered service. The appearance of the Russian T-62 had rendered the Type 61 obsolete. The new tank was far more advanced and used elements from the US-German experimental MBT-70 program (a controllable suspension and chassis) and the Leopard I (hull form), combined with a cast turret mounting the British L7 105mm main gun with a Japanese-developed auto-loader. The commander had a rotating cupola, and the active suspension allowed

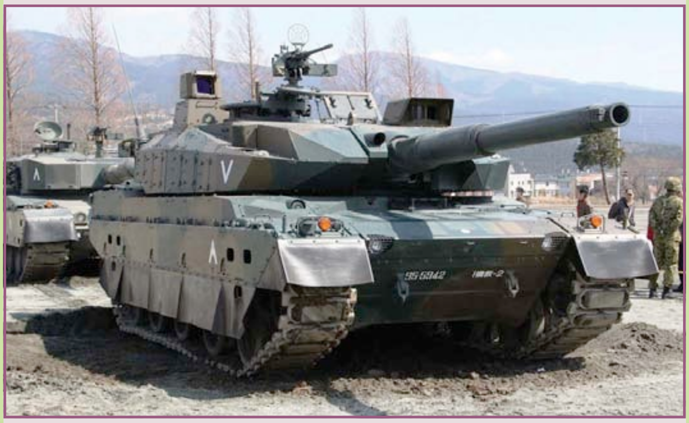
▶



The other side of the same prototype shows the sensors on the turret and the large turret stowage basket. The 120mm gun is fully stabilized and will maintain target aim no matter what manoeuvres the tank performs.



Like most modern MBTs, the Type 10 has a very clean external appearance, largely due to the composite armour that comprises the hull and turret. Its effectiveness is comparable to most modern MBTs even though its weight is somewhat less.



This production Type 10 is in front of the larger Type 90. Its armour uses a new nano-crystal steel not used on any other current tank, and is highly effective against modern anti-tank ammunition. There are only minor detail changes from the prototype.

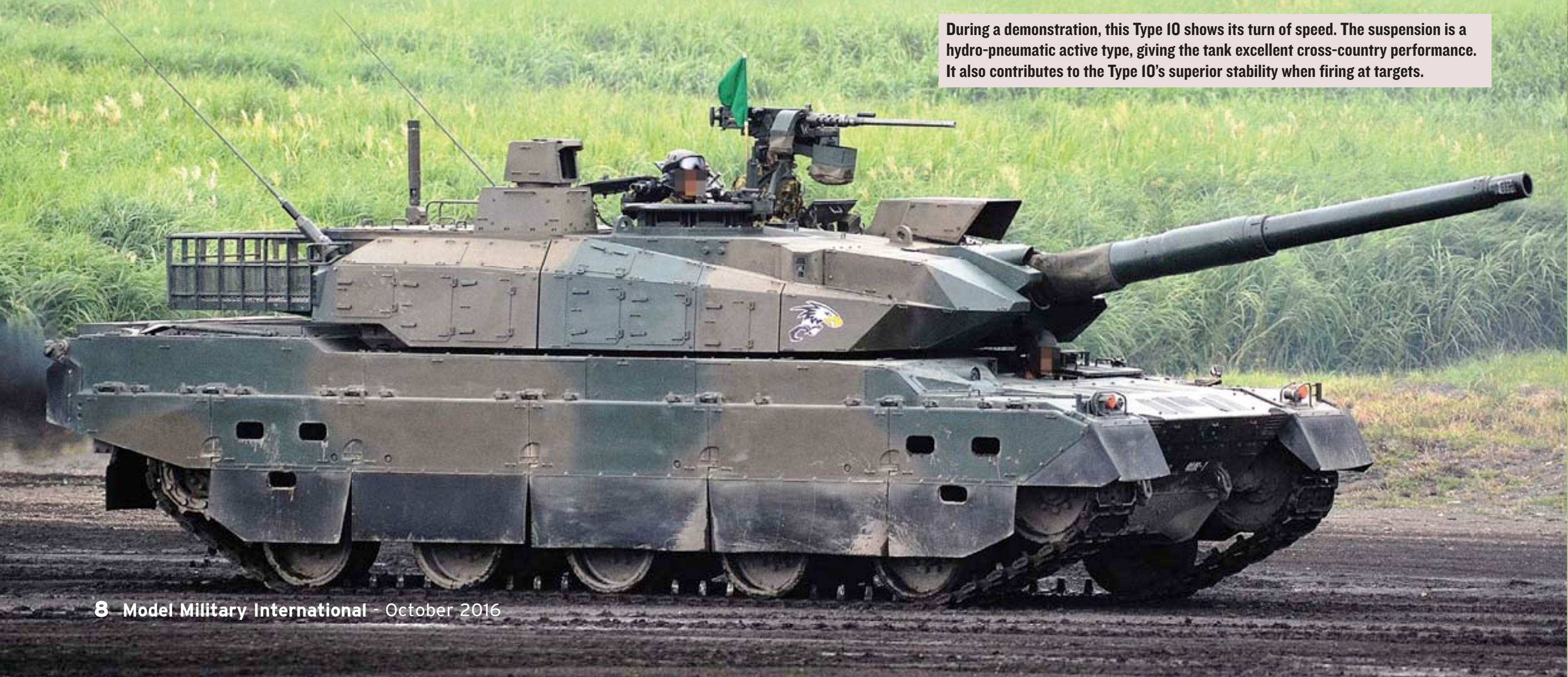
the tank to adapt to uneven terrain to improve gun accuracy.

Test mules for the new tank were tested in 1964, and continued for several years. The auto-loader for the main gun was too complex and was deleted from the design. The prototypes, STB-1 through STB-6, were refined and the final design entered production in 1975 as the Type 74 MBT. Mitsubishi built 893 by 1989. The Type 74 was obsolescent when it entered service. Though it was planned to replace all the Type 74 tanks when the later Type 90 entered service, budgetary restraints and the end of the Cold War have kept some Type 74s in use. An upgrade program in the mid-1990s was dropped due to cost.

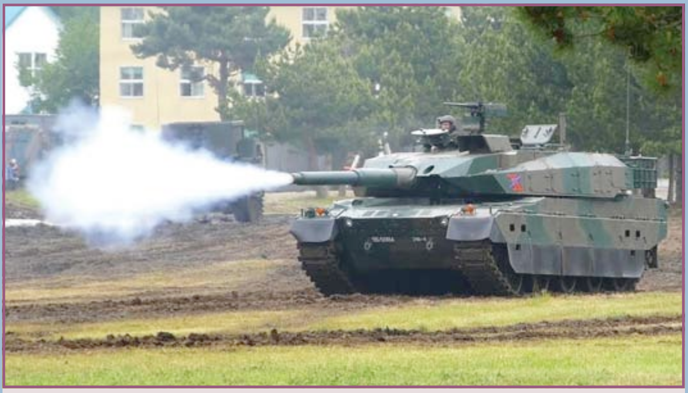
Again realizing that the Type 74 tank just adopted for service was obsolescent, the Japanese army high command determined that they wanted a new indigenous tank design to defeat the recent Russian T-72 MBT. Work on the new requirements, with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the defense agency technical development institute, began in 1976 and were completed in 1980. Two prototypes were built and tested from 1982 to 1986. Further test models were built in the late 1980s, and in 1990, the new tank was introduced as the Type 90 Kyu-maru. Series production began in 1990 and continued to 2009, with 341 examples being made. Except for the 120mm L/44 smoothbore main gun, built under license from Rheinmetall in Germany, all the other assemblies and equipment are manufactured in Japan. The cost per unit was some 790 million Yen ($7.4 million USD).

The Type 90 is a contemporary main battle tank comparable to others in current service, such as the Leopard II, Abrams, Challenger and T-90. The 120mm gun uses all NATO ammunition and has comparable performance. Similar in appearance to the early Leopard II, the Type 90 has modular composite and steel armour, allowing easier upgrades to increase protection. The engine is a Mitsubishi two-stroke diesel producing 1500 HP, mated to an automatic transmission. The suspension is a hybrid, with a basic torsion bar layout with hydro-pneumatic units for the front and rear stations to allow adjusting for uneven terrain. With the automatic loader for the gun, the crew is three men. All-up weight is 50.2 tonnes. The weight and size have tended to limit the use of the Type 90 MBT to the more open ground on the island of Hokkaido, though the army insists the tank can negotiate 65% of the bridges on the Japanese mainland.

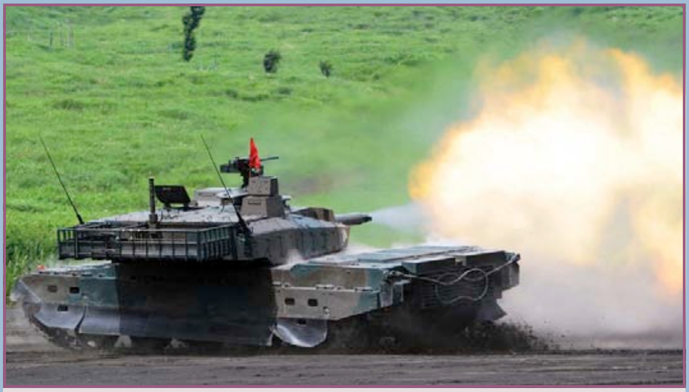
The operational limitations and high costs of the Type 90 led the army high command to develop a new lighter, smaller tank to supplement the larger type without sacrificing capability. The design project, dubbed the TK-X, again involved Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the army technical research institute. In common with the Type 90, the TK-X featured modular armour, which allows the vehicle to be configured for the mission at hand. Basic weight is 40 tonnes, but the weight with maximum armour fitted is 48 tonnes. All the experience with the Type 90 program was incorporated into the TK-X design. Development began in the 1990s, with several prototypes, and the resulting vehicle has been adopted as the Type 10 MBT (Hitomaru-shiki sensha). Production began in 2011 with an order for 13 examples which entered service in 2012.



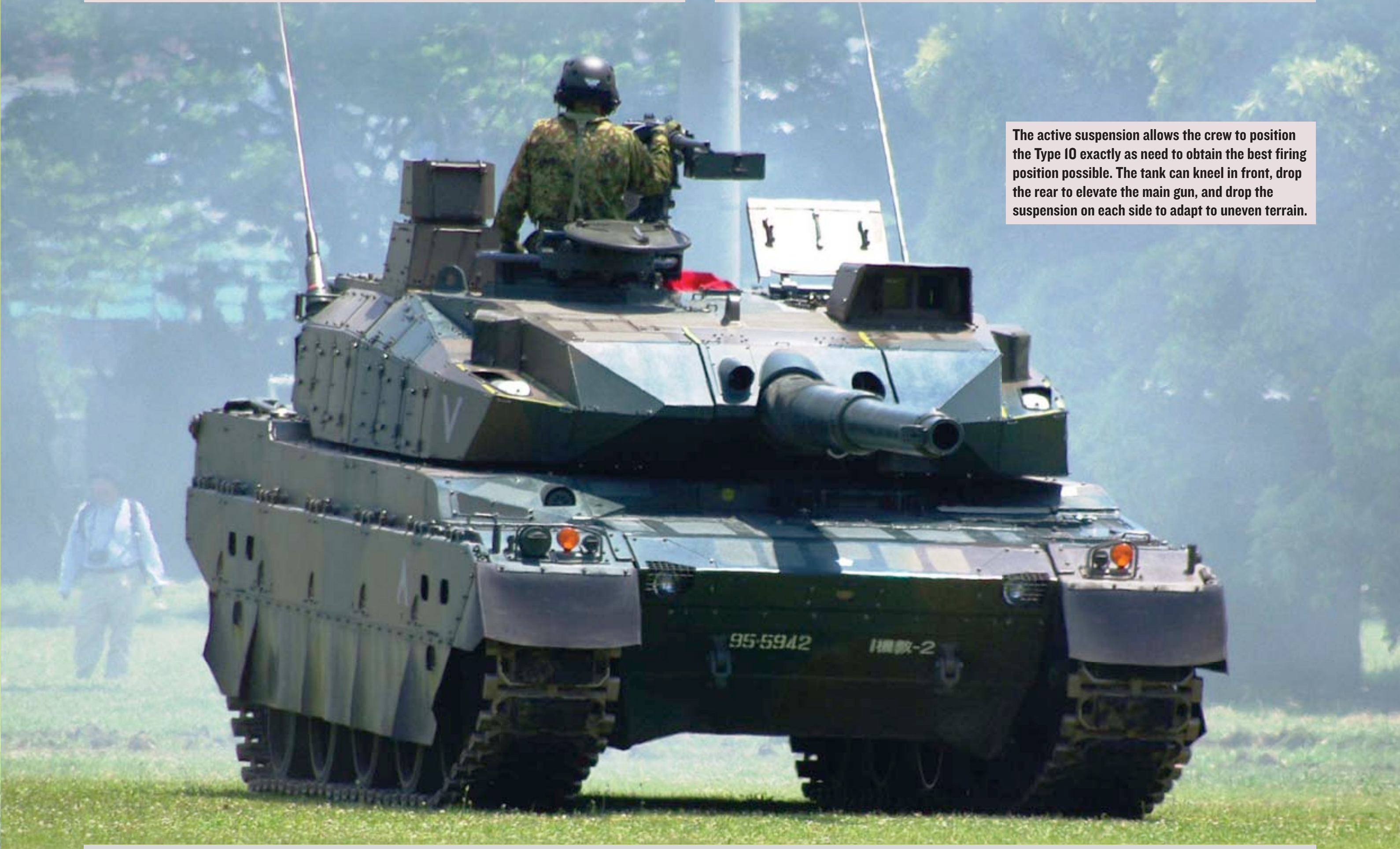
During a demonstration, this Type 10 shows its turn of speed. The suspension is a hydro-pneumatic active type, giving the tank excellent cross-country performance. It also contributes to the Type 10's superior stability when firing at targets.



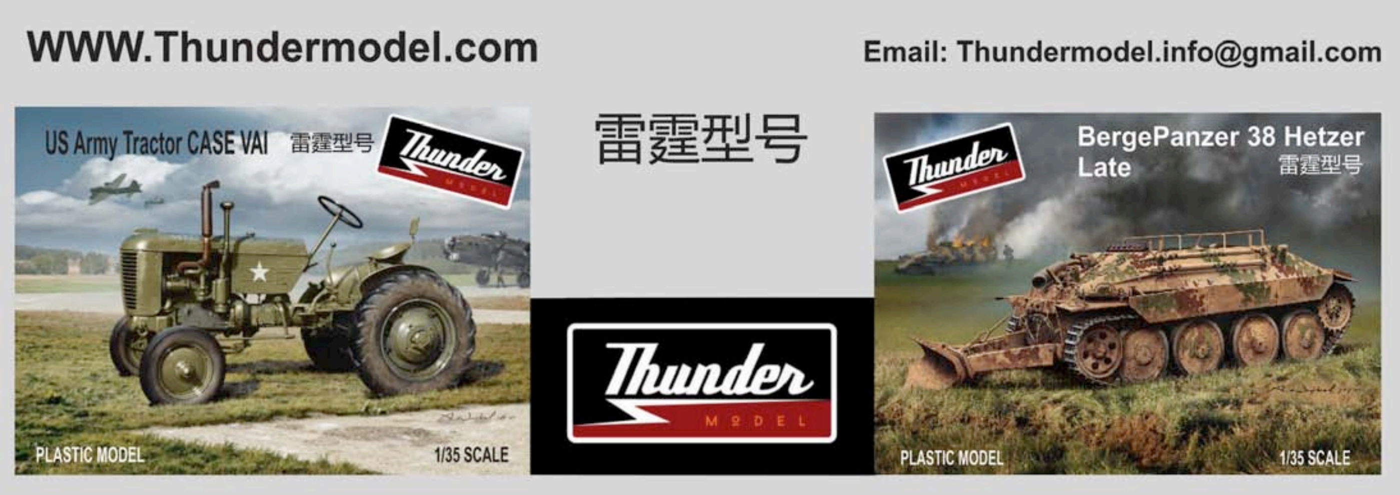
In common with all other MBTs, the Type 10 uses a bore evacuator to exhaust fumes from the gun barrel after each shot, as seen here. This tank is from a training unit and was photographed at a demonstration.



The Type 10 is fully capable of accurately firing on the move. Here, the chassis kneeling function is used to stabilize the vehicle and help control the firing of the main gun. The structure below the red flag is the commander's main sight.



The active suspension allows the crew to position the Type 10 exactly as need to obtain the best firing position possible. The tank can kneel in front, drop the rear to elevate the main gun, and drop the suspension on each side to adapt to uneven terrain.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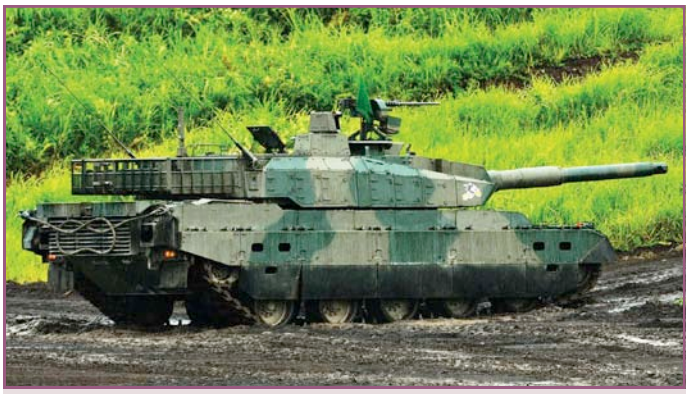
Think Tank - Japanese Type 10 Main Battle Tank



This Type 10 shows a kneeling position, which can help stabilise the tank during firing. This function is tied to the firing computer and is an integral part of the operation of the tank in action.

The Type 10 was designed to engage in networked warfare and its C4I capabilities are quite advanced. These tanks can communicate with each other through their computer networks as well as the standard radio equipment.

TYPE 10 MBT

The Type 10 MBT is a fourth generation tank, with many technical features that make it a formidable weapon system. The 120mm L/44 main gun is a Japanese-designed weapon and has an excellent gun stabilization system. It can fire all standard NATO 120mm rounds and in addition can fire a new Type 10 APFSDS round unique to this tank. An improved automatic loader is installed in the large turret bustle. The crew is three men: driver, commander and gunner.

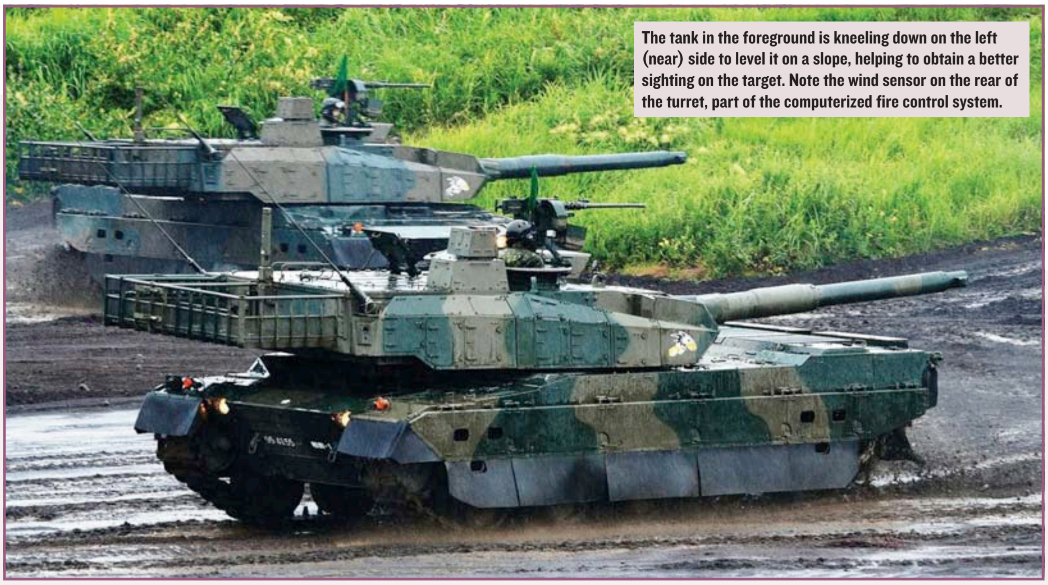
The armour is technically advanced and is made from very strong nano-crystal steel for the basic structure with modular ceramic composite armour that can be added to increase protection from RPG anti-tank shaped-charge rockets. This system is considered more effective than the armour of the Type 90 MBT. The tank features full nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) protection and has an automatic fire suppression system.

The suspension is an active hydro-pneumatic type like that of the Type 74, and also allows the Type 10 to adjust its position to match the local terrain conditions. The Type 10 can kneel in front or at the rear, and can also lean to either side. It can also drop down on both sides to lower the tank for hiding behind terrain for cover. There are five large road wheels on each side. Large rubber skirts are fitted around the suspension to control churned up dust and mud.

The engine is a four-stroke V-8 diesel producing 1200 HP, mated to a continuously variable transmission (CVT). The Type 10 can reach a road speed of 70 km/h (44 MPH) in forward and reverse. Normal operational range is 480 km (300 miles).

The strong point of the Type 10 MBT is its electronics and integrated C4I capabilities. The tank has enhanced day-night sights for the commander and gunner that are tied into the C4I system. The advanced fire control system for the main gun is so precise that the hull can be rotated 360 degrees under the turret while the gun remains trained accurately on a selected target. The Type 10 was designed to be integrated into a battlefield management system and is capable of communicating with other tanks in the field and with other army units like the infantry and artillery. This allows the crew to be aware of the surrounding battle situation and able to navigate and adapt their movements and tactics as needed.

Production of the Type 10 MBT has continued since introduction and currently at least 80 have been manufactured. Unit cost is about 954 million Yen (about $8.4 million USD). Budget concerns will likely follow the Type 10 as Japan tries to expand its defense establishment, but its smaller size and easier transport on trailers have made it a more useful tank than its predecessors, and it should give many years of useful service. ■



The tank in the foreground is kneeling down on the left (near) side to level it on a slope, helping to obtain a better sighting on the target. Note the wind sensor on the rear of the turret, part of the computerized fire control system.

Coordinated attacks and system firing are possible with the networked links among the tanks' computers, as well as better situational awareness and intelligence sharing. Again, note the kneeling position of the tank in the foreground.

A major function of the active suspension is to stabilize the Type 10 during firing the main gun. The 120mm gun can use all standard NATO rounds, and also can use a new APFSDS developed specifically for the Type 10.

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1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Pz.Kpfw.IV mit Panther F Turret
Smart Kit
DRAGON

Dragon continues to surprise with its plastic renditions of Paper Panzers. **Graham Tetley** takes a look a one of the latest – a 1:35 scale Panzer IV with a Panther Ausf. F "Schmalturm" turret.

HYBRID FELINE

One thing that you can't accuse Dragon of is resting on their laurels. With this latest release they continue to make the best of their existing tooling to give us another 'What If?' paper panzer. We have sprues from the standard Panzer IV, Ausf H, Brummbar and Jagdpanzer IV L/70 combined, along with the Panther F turret to give us a late war design that never saw service.

Back in 2007, via their Cyberhobby brand, Dragon gave us a Panther 'F' that had a newly tooled turret atop a Panther G hull. At the time, the turret was said to be very accurate and it is this very same sprue that is in this kit. In the box there are 21 plastic sprues, one sprue of clear parts, one etched fret, pre-shaped mesh shields, a pre-shaped debris guard for the main gun and two runs of DS tracks. Molding quality throughout on the plastic parts is clean & crisp with no flash or imperfections and detail is clean and sharp. The only new plastic parts are a new Sprue 'F' with a turret ring that will fit the Panzer IV hull and we get a new etched fret mainly concerned with the schurzen frames. My regular comments apply to the DS Tracks, in that whilst they are nicely moulded they are plagued with flash and will have to be replaced. Bring back Magic Tracks please Dragon.

Construction kicks off with the lower hull, road wheels & suspension. For this version we get the front two road wheels depicted as steel-wheeled and these are beautifully done with separate rims. Everything else with the hull is standard Dragon Panzer IV which has been written about many times, in more detail, elsewhere. Tools are provided with moulded on clasps and, for this version, Dragon have seen fit to do away with the etched louvres for the air intakes that we used to see.

As far as the Schmalturm is concerned, it matches drawings in Panzer Tracts 5-4 and I just wish that I had measured the real thing when I was last at Bovington. The details included are superb and very well defined although we get no internals. The turret is broken down into a one-piece shell with separate bottom, front and rear and here is the main fit problem in that the front and side plates have no definite fixing points and instead just rely on the contact surfaces butting together. Take care and test fit as it does go together. The barrel is a one-piece plastic affair and we get a pre-formed debris guard in brass to add to the mantlet. The original Panther 'F' kit had a metal barrel so it is a shame to see this deleted.

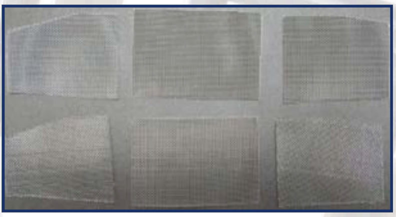
The Schurtzen is an area where this kit stops being 'Smart' as the construction is complicated. We are provided with pre-shaped mesh parts that fit within the etched brass surrounds. Fortunately we get a set of plastic formers to help bend the etched surrounds however some of these have to be cut & re-shaped as per the instructions. What will prove testing to my patience is how all of this fits to the plastic mounting rails – we get a plastic part the affixes to the mesh and an etched part fixes this in place. Placement however is anyone's guess as there are no placement marks on the parts. I can see myself gluing the plastic mounts to the rails and the cobbling it all together from there.

The instruction sheet is a fold-out A4 affair and does appear cluttered in places. As usual with Dragon kits, take your time and study the assembly steps. I have not, as yet, spotted any mistakes in there but that is no guarantee!

Dragon provides us with painting schemes for four vehicles, all from unidentified units in 1944. Markings themselves just consist of 3 German crosses but, as it is a fictional vehicle, you can paint it and mark it however you wish.

If you like 'What-If' vehicles then this will not disappoint as Dragon has taken a quite accurate Panzer IV lower hull and mated it to a quite accurate Panther 'F' turret to give us this unique vehicle. It is a shame that they have cut back on the goodies (Magic Tracks, less etch & no metal barrel as per the first Panther F kits) but there is enough in the box to please most. I will give it a 7.5 out of 10 and a recommended. ■

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample
www.hobbyco.net


Nicely done Schurzen mesh.

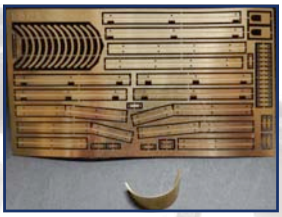
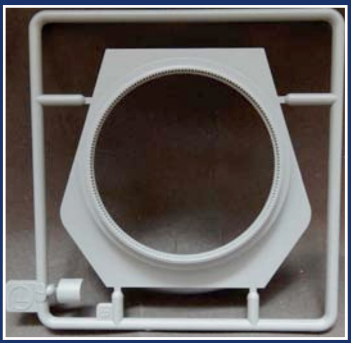
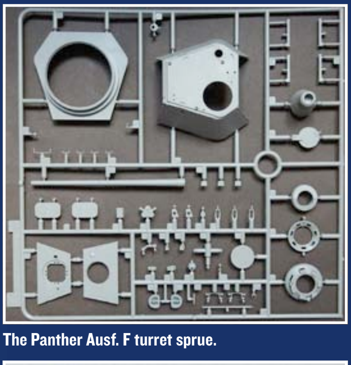
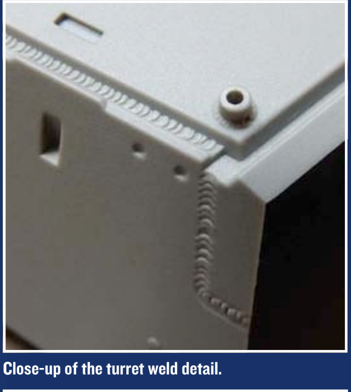


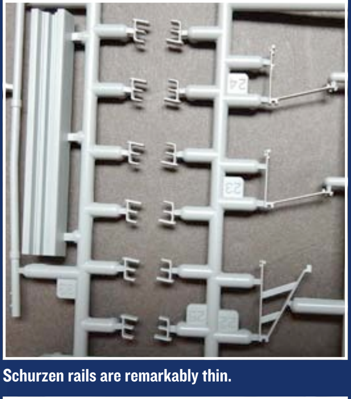
Photo-etched parts.

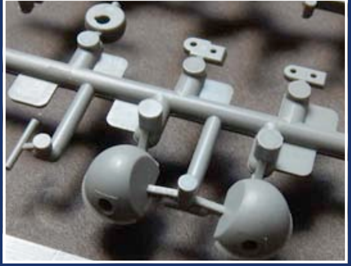
The pre-shaped gun shield.

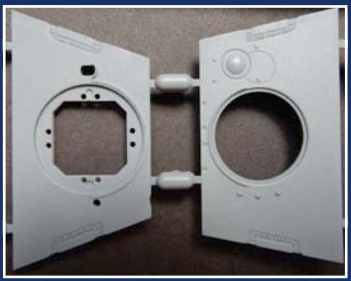

New turret ring.


The Panther Ausf. F turret sprue.


Close-up of the turret weld detail.


Schurzen rails are remarkably thin.


Shame about the mould seams!


Turret side and rear detail.

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NEW SAMURAI PART 2

The Type 10 is a Third Generation Japanese main battle tank designed as a replacement for the recently retired Type 74 and the currently serving Type 90 tanks. Development of the new vehicle commenced in 1996. 13 Type 10s were delivered in 2010, followed by another 13 each in 2011 and 2012.

At 44 tons, the Type 10 is six tons lighter than the Type 90 and dimensionally smaller than its predecessors, but still manages to pack a punch thanks to its locally designed 44 calibre 120mm smooth bore main weapon. This is equivalent in firepower to the Rheinmetall gun fitted to the Leopard 2. Longer 55 calibre barrels are also available as an option and may be seen on later models. The Type 10 is fitted with an auto-loader, meaning a crew of only three is required – Commander, driver and gunner.

A coaxial machine gun is fitted, and a further external .50 cal may be fitted to the Commander's cupola.

The Type 10's use of nano-crystal steel and modular ceramic composite armour has significantly improved its defensive capabilities compared to the Type 90.

Power is supplied by a 1,200hp V8 diesel engine and a continuously variable automatic transmission, delivering a top speed of 70 km/h – either forwards or backwards!

TAMIYA'S 1:48 SCALE JGSDF TYPE 10 IN THE BOX

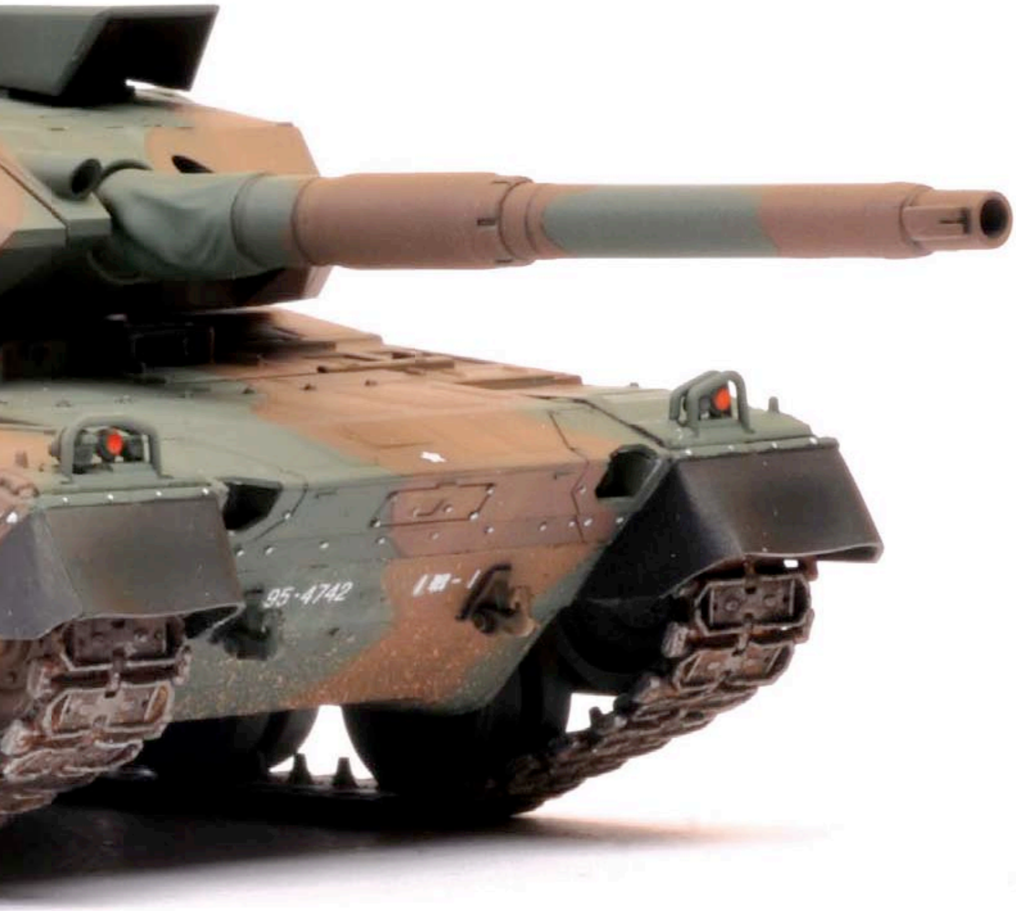
Tamiya was quick off the mark with their 1:35 scale Type 10 tank back in 2013, followed by two 1:16 scale kits in 2014 – one radio controlled and one static model.

Now, three years later, Tamiya completes the trifecta with a 1:48 scale JGSDF Type 10 Military Miniature Series.

The kit comprises a 166 parts in olive coloured plastic, three steel

TAMIYA
1:48
JAPAN GROUND SELF DEFENSE FORCE
TYPE 10 TANK

After building the 1:35 scale kit in 2013, **Brett Green** now builds and paints Tamiya's brand new 1:48 scale JGSDF Type 10 Tank.



ingots, four small polythene caps, plus markings for two vehicles.

The smooth lines of this modern tank are very obvious from looking at the main hull and turret parts. Many of the lumps and bumps of traditional tanks have been smoothed over, covered up or recessed into the hull or turret. This streamlined design results in an even simpler build for the modeller, but this does not imply any lack of detail.

In common with its 1:35 scale predecessor, the surface textures on this kit are simply superb. The hull and turret are covered with non-slip patches, hatches, hinges and tie-downs, all beautifully done.

The lower hull, upper hull and turret are all made up from separate panels for the top, bottom and sides as applicable.

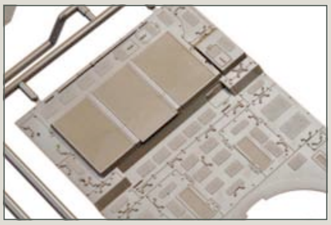
The heavy skirts are also noteworthy, featuring some of the most convincing rubberised drape that I have ever seen in 1:48 scale injection-moulded plastic.

Three cylindrical steel ingots are included for fitting in the lower hull. These are optional, and intended to deliver "scale weight". ▶

Three cylindrical metal ingots are supplied for "scale weight".

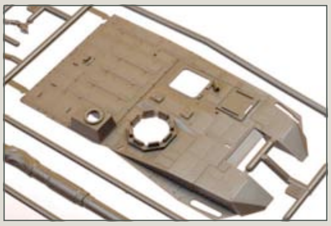
The hull is broken down into separate sections.

The upper hull piece features amazing surface textures including non-slip surfaces.



The solid-moulded mesh looks fantastic too.

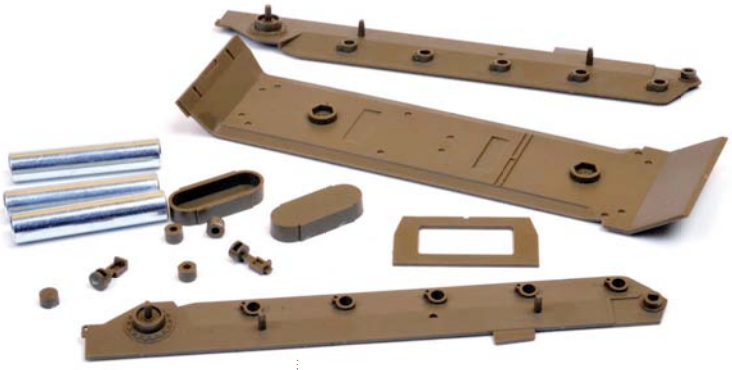
Impressive representation of the rubber side skirts.



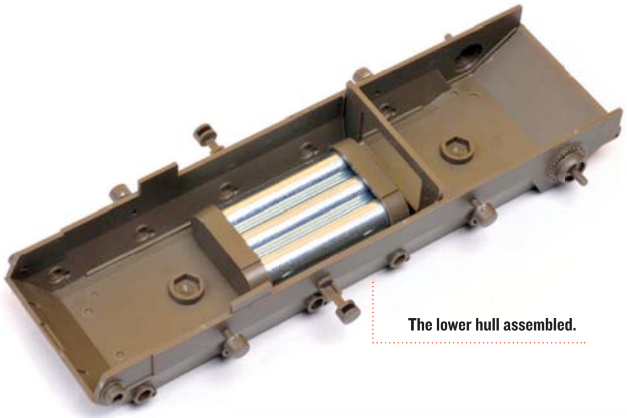
The top of the turret also features that lovely non-slip texture.

The barrel is moulded in one piece, including the fabric cover.

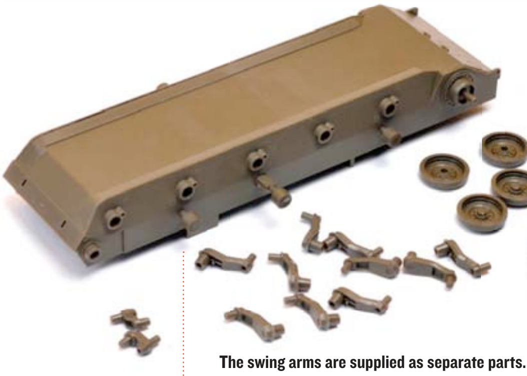
A well detailed Commander figure is also included.



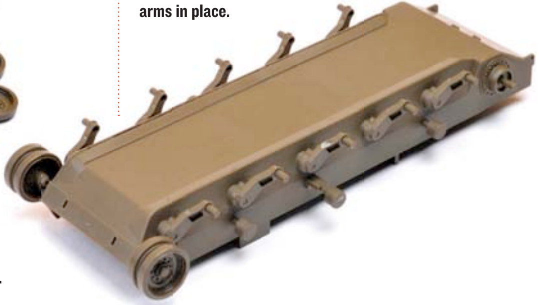
The lower hull "flat pack" parts awaiting assembly.



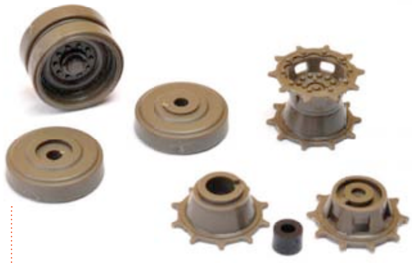
The lower hull assembled.



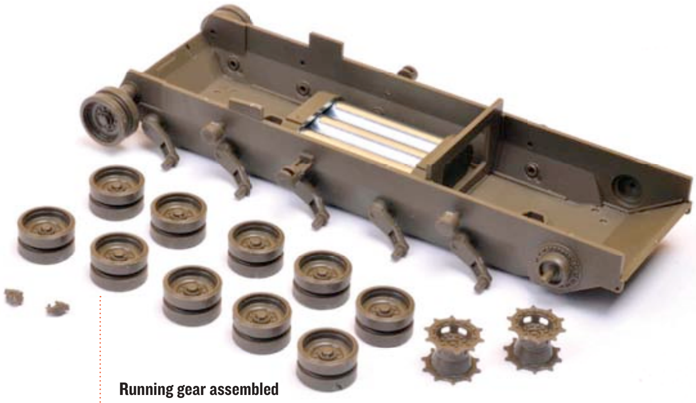
The swing arms are supplied as separate parts. They are keyed with a small locating pin to ensure precise alignment.



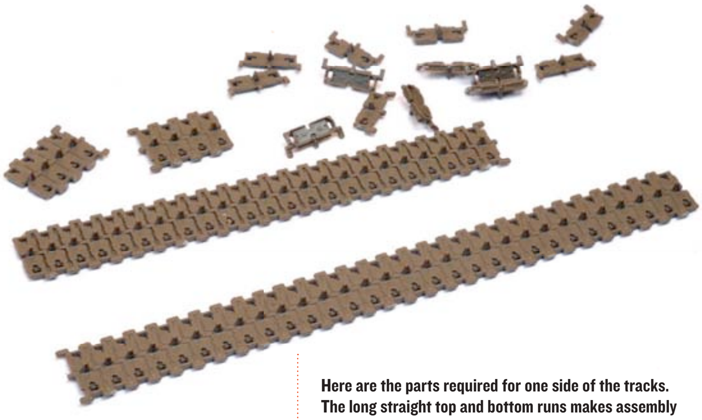
Idler wheels and swing arms in place.



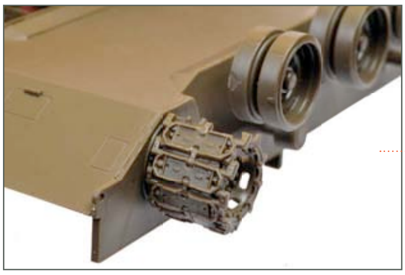
The road wheels are simple – just a front and rear face. The drive sprockets are fitted with a polythene cap, which helps when fitting the tracks.



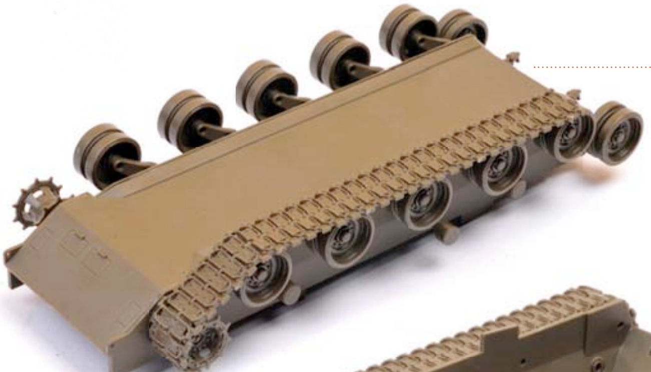
Running gear assembled and ready for installation.



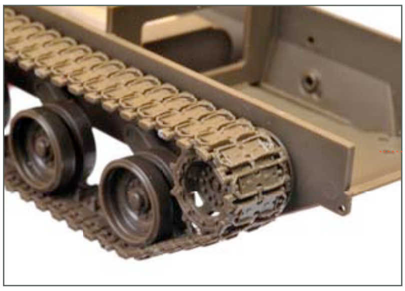
Here are the parts required for one side of the tracks. The long straight top and bottom runs makes assembly fast and relatively painless.



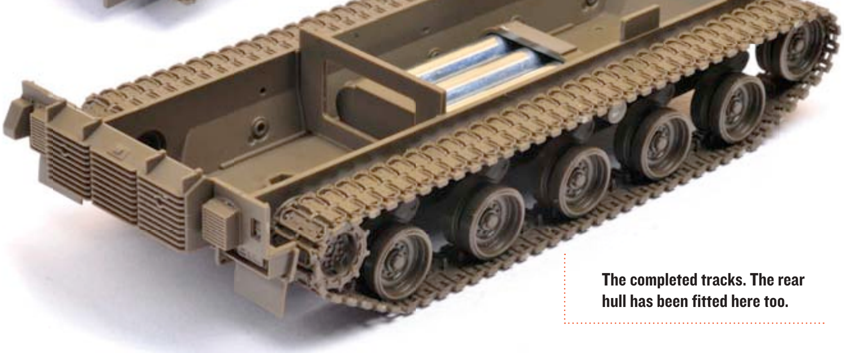
We start with five individual links around the drive sprocket.



While the previous step is still workable, we now add one of the short, straight sections, followed by another single link and the long lower run.



If you work quickly, you'll be able to make adjustments while the cement is still setting.

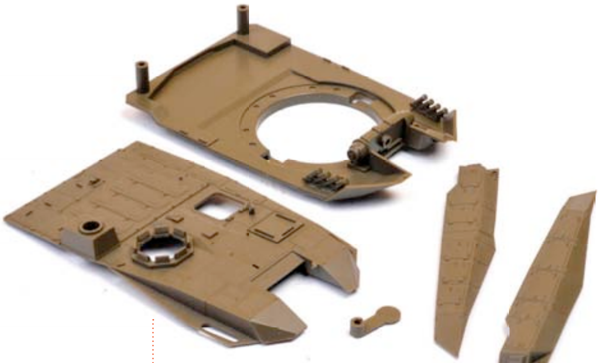


The completed tracks. The rear hull has been fitted here too.

Upper hull parts.

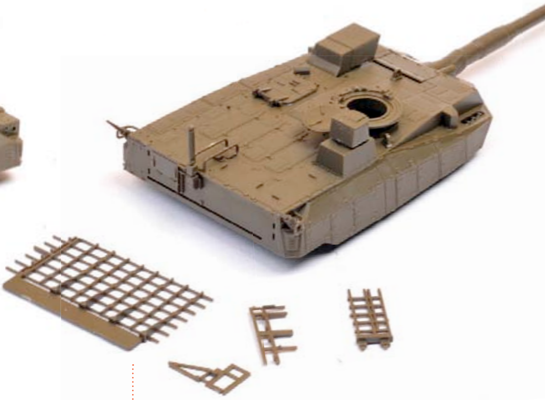
The upper hull assembled. The instructions would have you glue the upper and lower hull sub-assemblies together now, but I recommend that you delay this until painting is finished.

The gun barrel may be elevated and depressed thanks to the use of polythene caps.



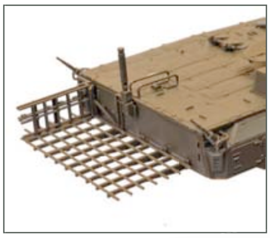
The turret parts. Note the smoke dischargers mounted inside the turret.

The turret shell has been assembled here and awaits the fitting of detail parts.

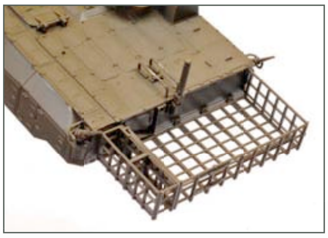


The rear turret basket is made up from multiple panels.

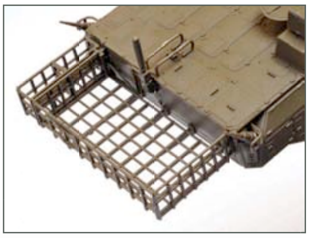
These fit well but require some care when aligning the parts.



The base of the basket fits into a long slot, resulting in a nice strong fit.

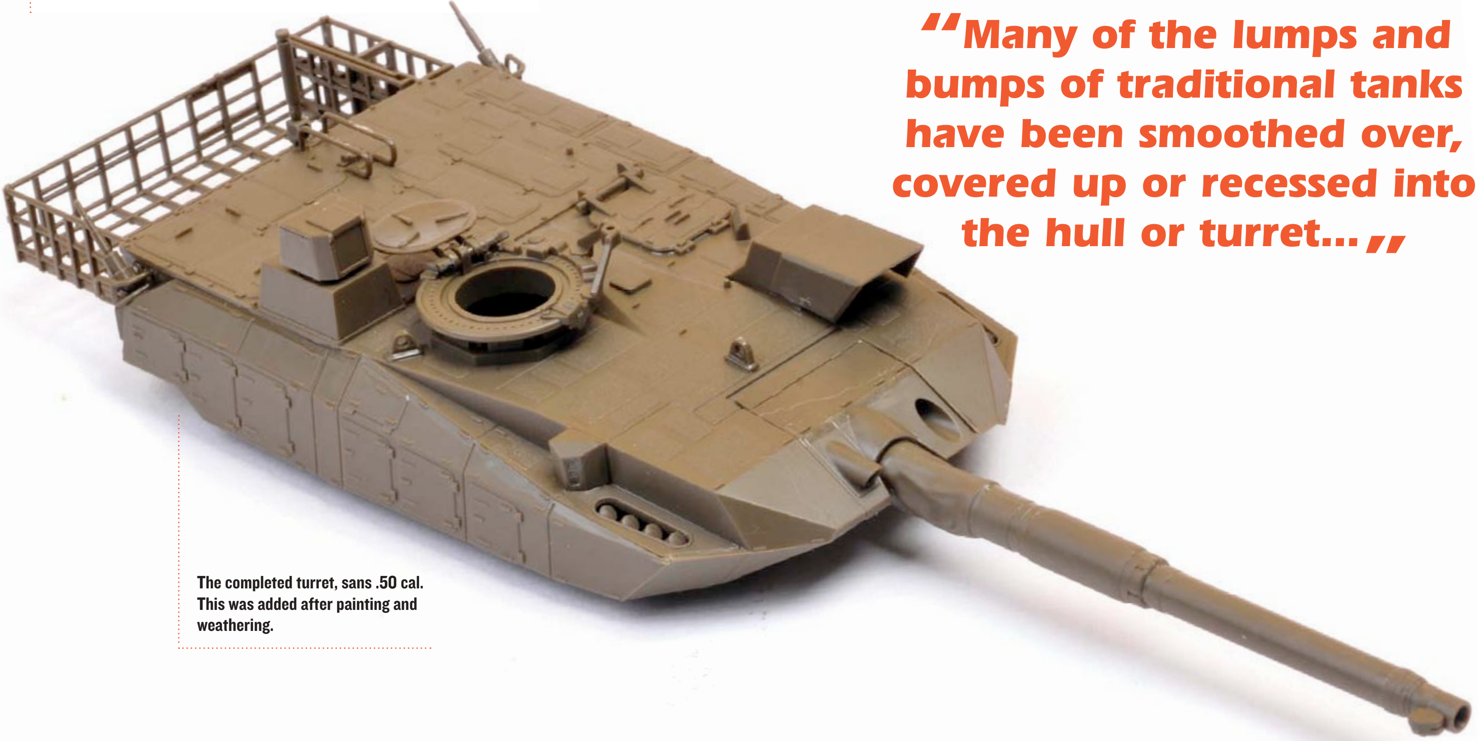


The slide sections also locate positively into the rear of the turret.

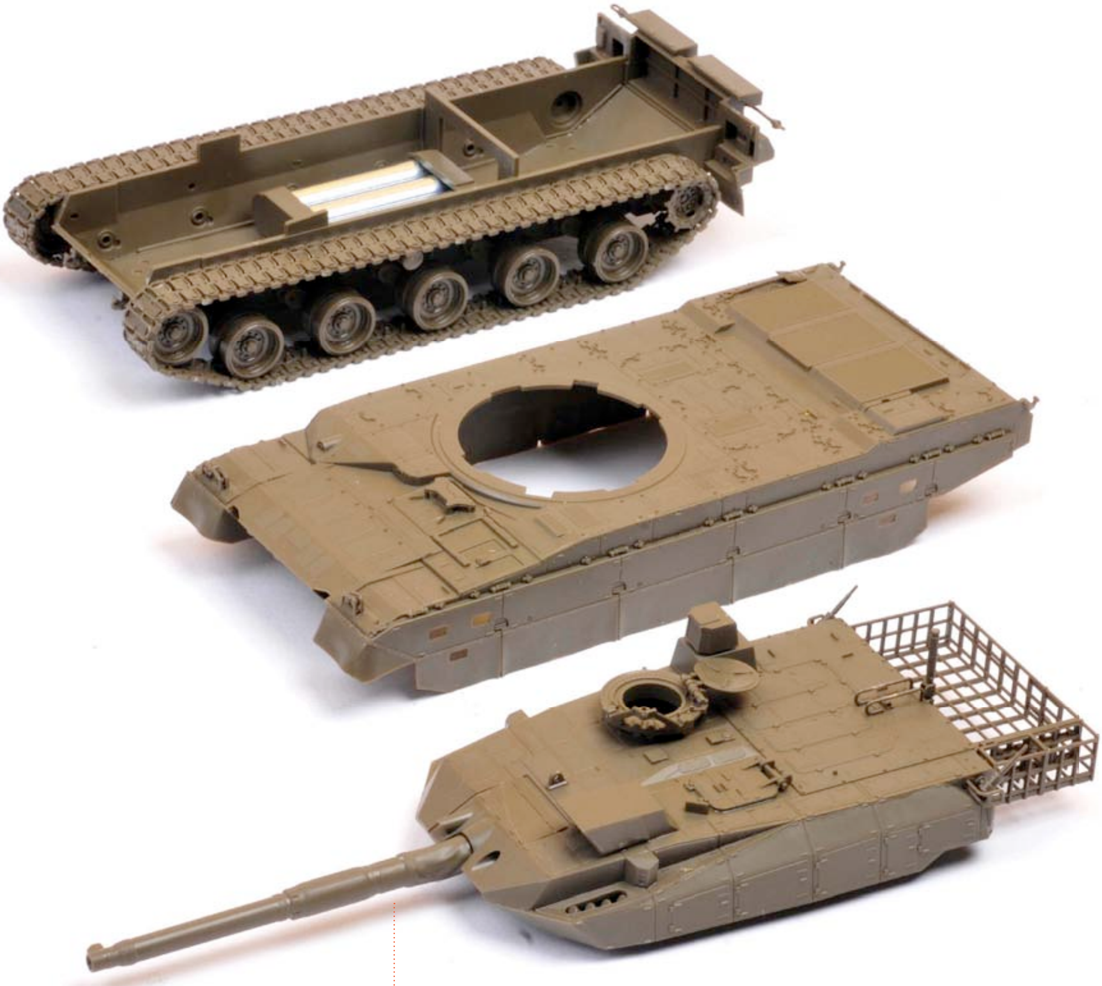


Antenna bases and the environmental sensor have been fitted too.

> **"Many of the lumps and bumps of traditional tanks have been smoothed over, covered up or recessed into the hull or turret..."**



The completed turret, sans .50 cal. This was added after painting and weathering.



The three main sub-assemblies complete.

◀ All the unique attributes of the Type 10 are present, including the armoured external Commander's and gunner's sight.

The swing arms are separate and keyed via a small second locating pin. The road wheels are simply glued to the swing arm axles.

This time around the tracks are injection moulded plastic lengths and links. Detail looks excellent and with the straight top run, assembly should be straightforward.

The drive sprockets and gun barrel are fitted via poly caps, allowing these parts to be moveable after assembly. The main gun barrel is a single piece with a separate muzzle.

The Commander's hatch is a separate parts and may be posed open to fit the included (and very nicely detailed) Commander figure.

The headlights have solid (i.e. not clear plastic) lenses. However, these are recessed into the front hull, so they will be pretty well hidden anyway.

Markings are supplied for two vehicles.

Decals are nicely in register and should snuggle down nicely under a coat of setting solution.

SPEED BUILDING

Modellers have different priorities and different preferences. Some will like a simple kit that fits together well, while others will prefer the challenge of super detail and many parts; and won't be fazed by tiny plastic pieces or challenging construction sequences.

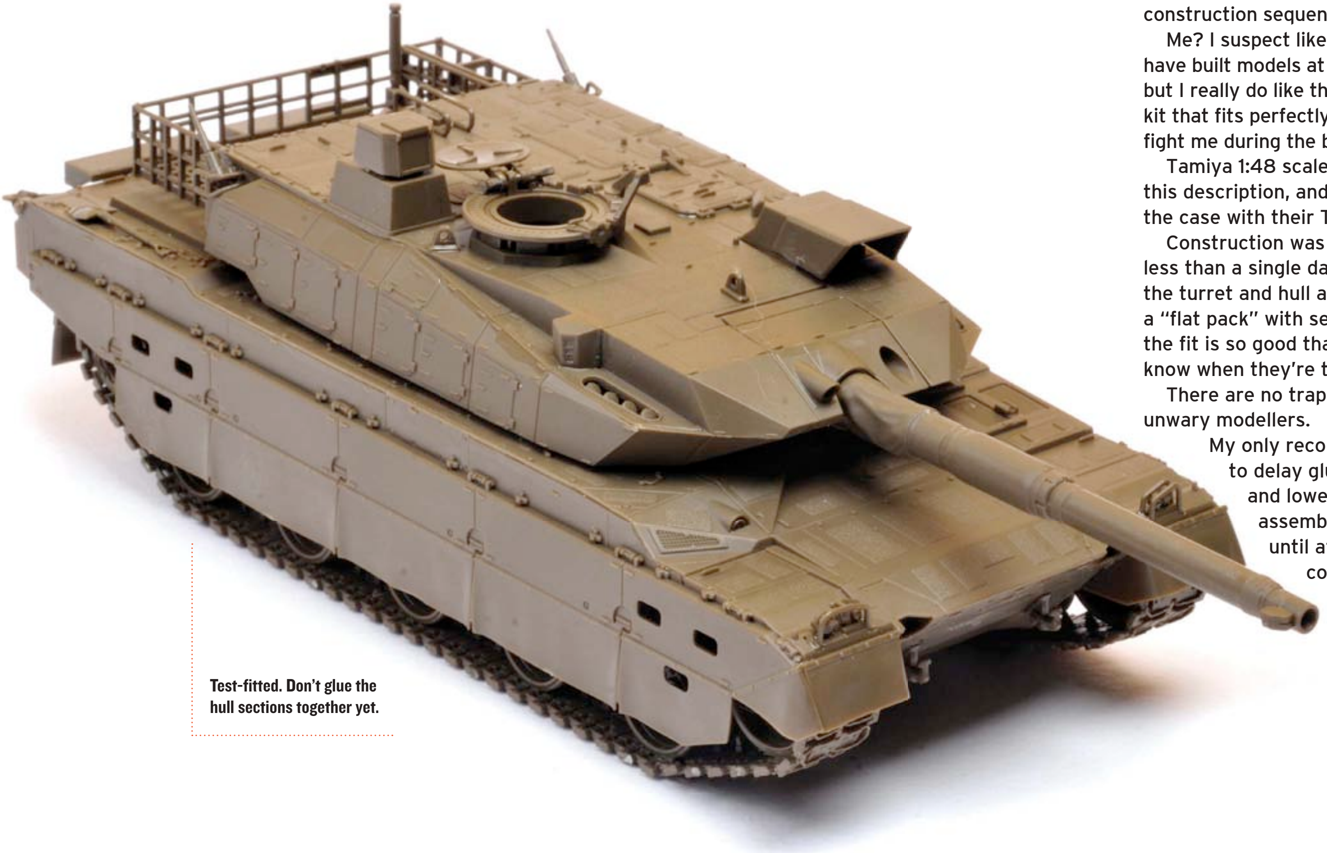
Me? I suspect like many others, I have built models at both extremes, but I really do like the luxury of a kit that fits perfectly and doesn't fight me during the build.

Tamiya 1:48 scale kits usually fit this description, and such was also the case with their Type 10 Tank.

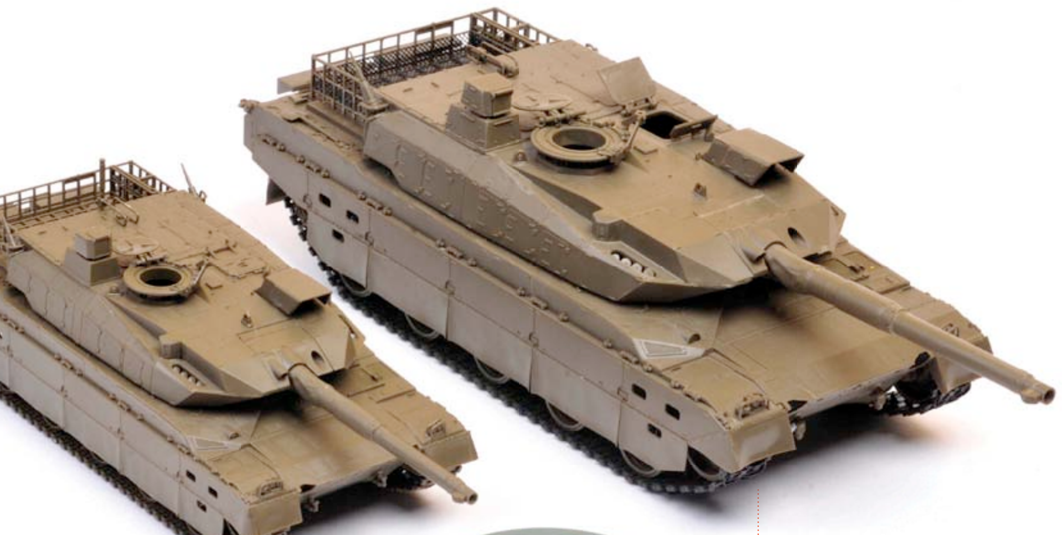
Construction was completed in less than a single day. Although the turret and hull are supplied as a "flat pack" with separate panels, the fit is so good that you'd never know when they're together.

There are no traps lurking for unwary modellers.

My only recommendation is to delay gluing the upper and lower hull sub-assemblies together until after painting is complete.



Test-fitted. Don't glue the hull sections together yet.



A size comparison between the 1:48 scale kit (left) and the 2013 1:35 scale release (right).

PAINTING

Not surprisingly, Tamiya recommends a selection of Tamiya paints for finishing the Type 10, including the option of either acrylic bottles or lacquer spray cans for the two main camouflage colours. I decided to use a combination.

With the model completed, I started with a base coat of Tamiya TS-91 Dark Green (JGSDF), straight from the spray can. I did not bother with a primer coat as this hard-wearing lacquer offered the roles of both primer and base colour.

Next, I mixed Tamiya's acrylic XF-73 Dark Green (JGSDF) with around 15% dark yellow and sprayed spots, streaks and mottles to break up the uniform appearance of the base coat. Once it was finished, I thought the effect was a bit extreme so I applied a light overspray of the original Dark Green colour over the top.

TS-91
TAMIYA COLOR
FOR PLASTICS
XF-72
XF-73
TAMIYA COLOR
ACRYLIC PAINT

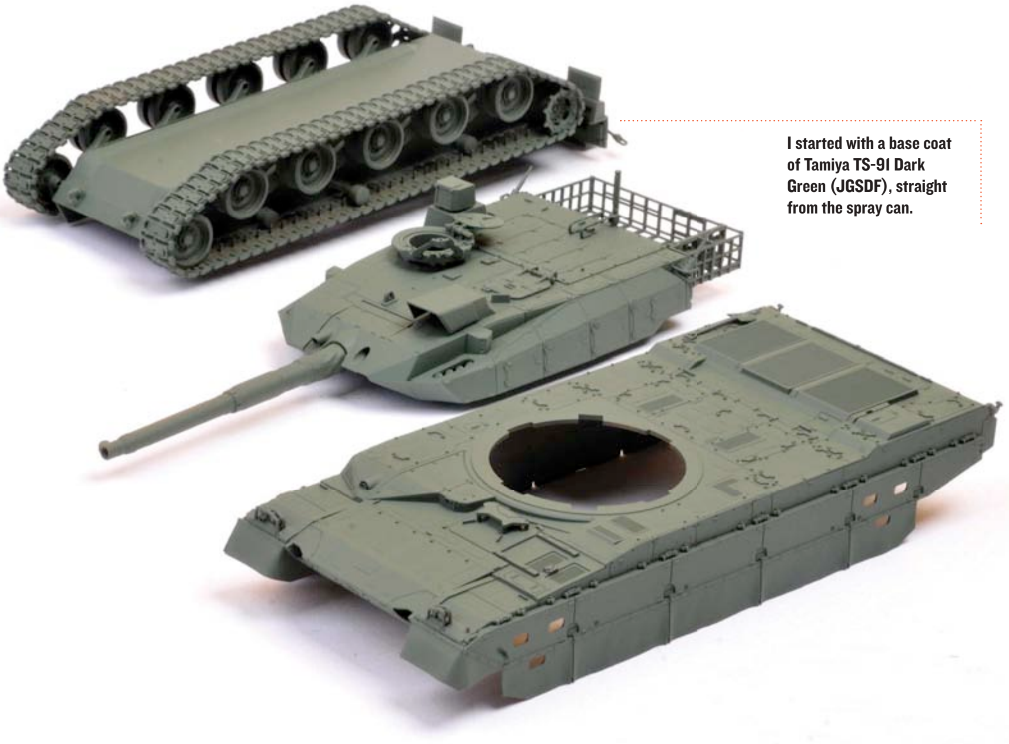
The three paints used for the basic camouflage colours.

Using Tamiya's instructions as a guide, I drew the outline of the camouflage pattern onto the hull and turret with a brown Prismacolor pencil. I hatched the area to be painted with the pencil too, to reduce the risk of painting in the wrong areas (it's happened before)!

Next, I painted over the outline with a medium sized brush using Tamiya's recommended acrylic TS-90 Brown (JGSDF).

Once this was done I cracked out the airbrush and filled in the blank spaces with TS-90 Brown (JGSDF). The brown sections were also modulated with a paler mix of the colour.

Now it was time to paint the heavy rubber skirts. The hull was masked off with Tamiya tape and ▶



I started with a base coat of Tamiya TS-91 Dark Green (JGSDF), straight from the spray can.

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◀ the rubber sections were sprayed with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.

After the paint has dried but before the masks were removed, the skirts and mudguards were dry-brushed with Vallejo's Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger. (Black).

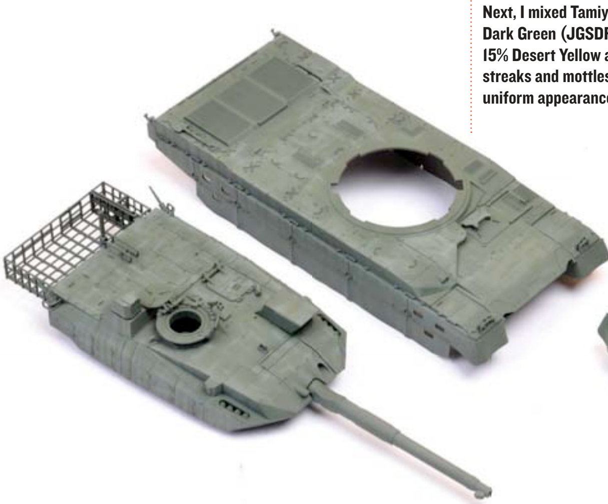
The tracks and tyres of the road wheels and idler wheels were painted by brush using the aforementioned 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. This task was much easier with the lower hull not yet glued to the upper hull.

The entire model was now sprayed with two coats of Future floor polish in preparation for decals and further weathering.

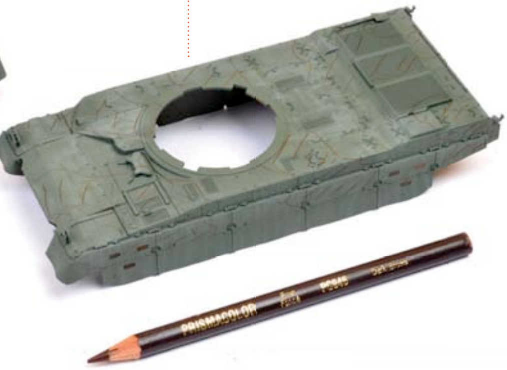
WEATHERING AND FINISHING

Typical of Tamiya decals, they looked thick on the sheet but performed quite well in practice, although I did end up with a pale ghostly outline of the turret markings as a result of the Solvaset coat over the Future. I would normally eliminate this with another quick shot of Future over the top, but in this case it actually highlighted the otherwise very low contrast markings, so I left it as it was.

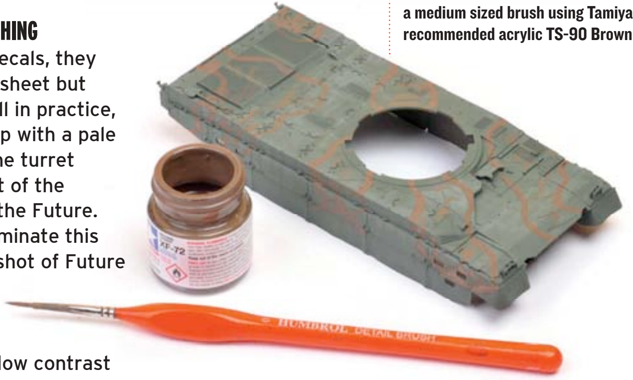
I did not want to go overboard with weathering, so I limited this step. Panel lines and structural features were highlighted with a pin wash of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black, XF-64 Red Brown, Future floor polish and water. The wash was applied very selectively using a fine brush.



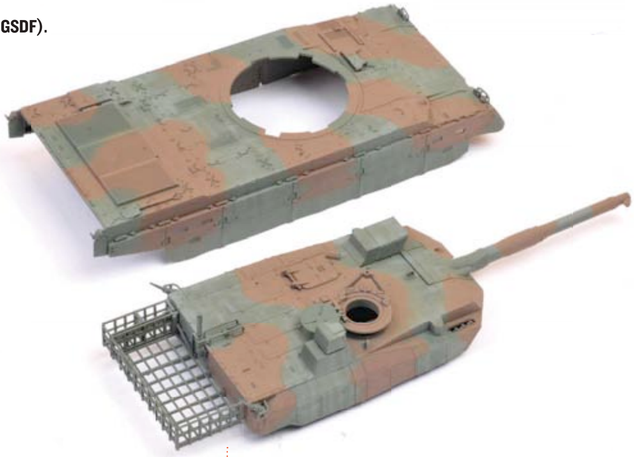
Next, I mixed Tamiya's acrylic XF-73 Dark Green (JGSDF) with around 15% Desert Yellow and sprayed spots, streaks and mottles to break up the uniform appearance of the base coat.



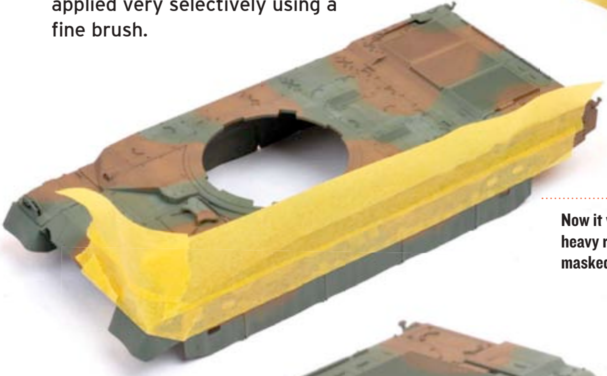
The outline of the camouflage pattern was drawn onto the hull and turret with a brown Prismacolor pencil.



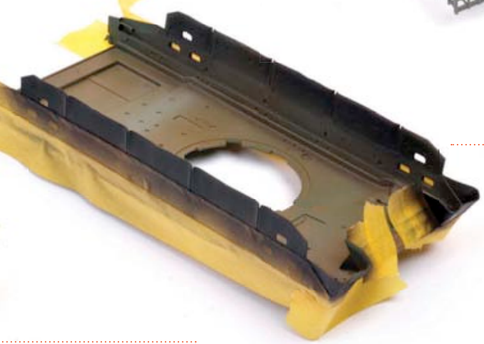
Next, the outline was overpainted with a medium sized brush using Tamiya's recommended acrylic TS-90 Brown (JGSDF).



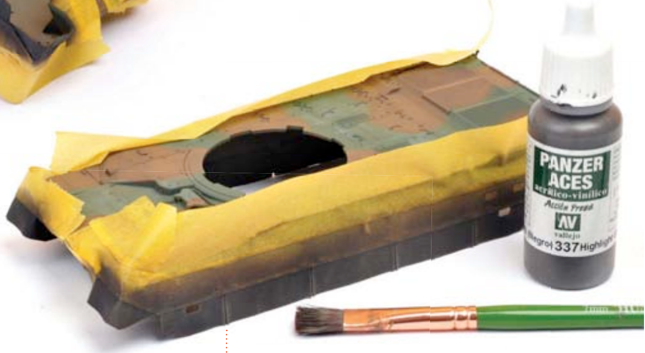
The blank spaces were filled with TS-90 Brown (JGSDF) applied by airbrush.



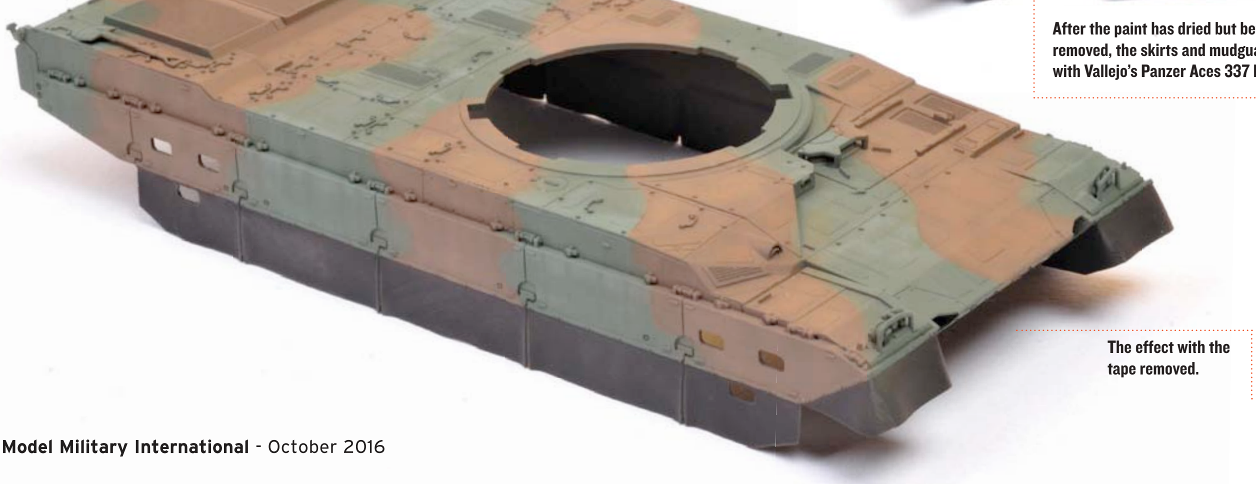
Now it was time to paint the heavy rubber skirts. The hull was masked off with Tamiya tape...



...and the rubber sections were sprayed with a 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.



After the paint has dried but before the masks were removed, the skirts and mudguards were dry-brushed with Vallejo's Panzer Aces 337 Highlight Ger. (Black).



The effect with the tape removed.

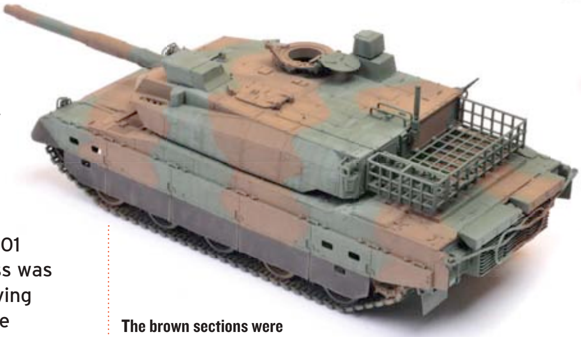
It would appear that the tracks guard and mudguard fasteners are bare metal or possibly painted white. I applied tiny spots of light grey paint using the tip of a toothpick to each of the rivets.

The tracks were brushed with Maru Easy Mud No. 21101 Standard (Light). The excess was rubbed off with a cloth, leaving the residue embedded in the recessed areas. Next, the high areas of the tracks were rubbed with a cloth embedded with a mix of Aluminium and Gunmetal Non-Buffable Metalizers. This recreated the polished appearance of the worn track pads and connectors. Finally, the tracks were treated to a medium-thick wash of Winsor & Newton Raw Umber oil paint thinned with turpentine.

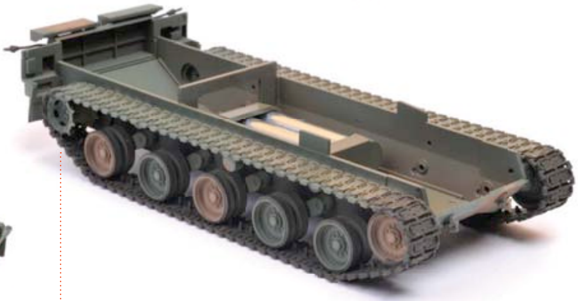
The upper and lower hulls were now glued together and the ends of the tow cables simply hooked over the horns on the upper rear hull sides,

The completed paint job was now sealed with Alclad II Klear Kote Flat Lacquer.

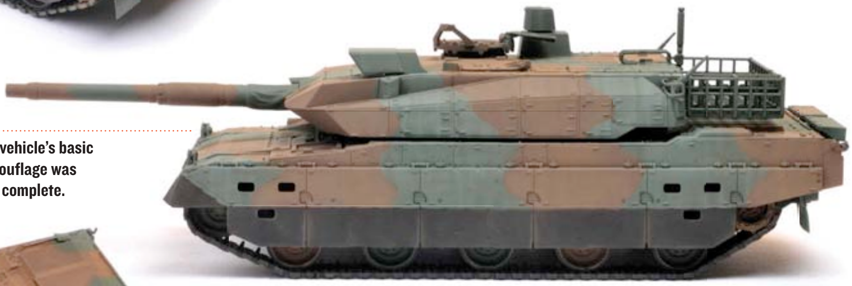
The final task was to add some mud spatter to the rear hull and the back of the hull sides. I mixed a clump of Maru Easy Mud No. 21101 Standard (Light) with water and used an old stiff brush to flick the resulting mixture onto the hull rear and sides. I tested this technique on a piece of paper before messing up the model! ▶



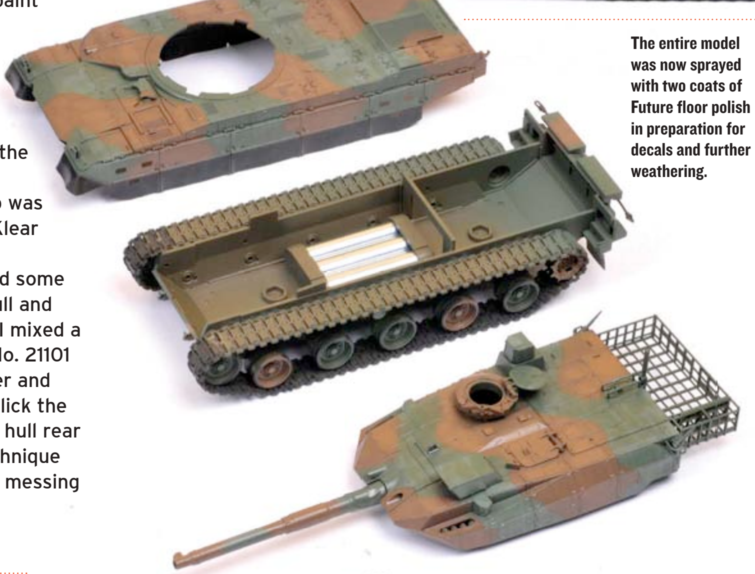
The brown sections were modulated with a paler mix of the colour.



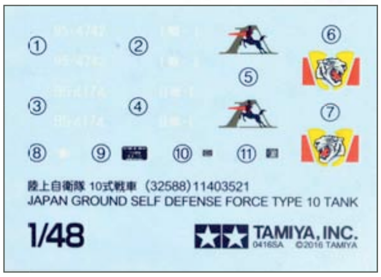
The tracks and tyres of the road wheels and idler wheels were painted by brush using the aforementioned 50/50 mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.



The vehicle's basic camouflage was now complete.



The entire model was now sprayed with two coats of Future floor polish in preparation for decals and further weathering.



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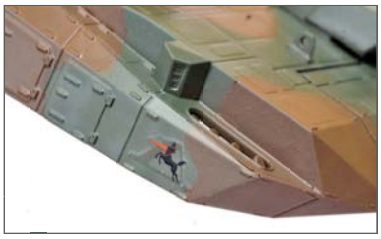
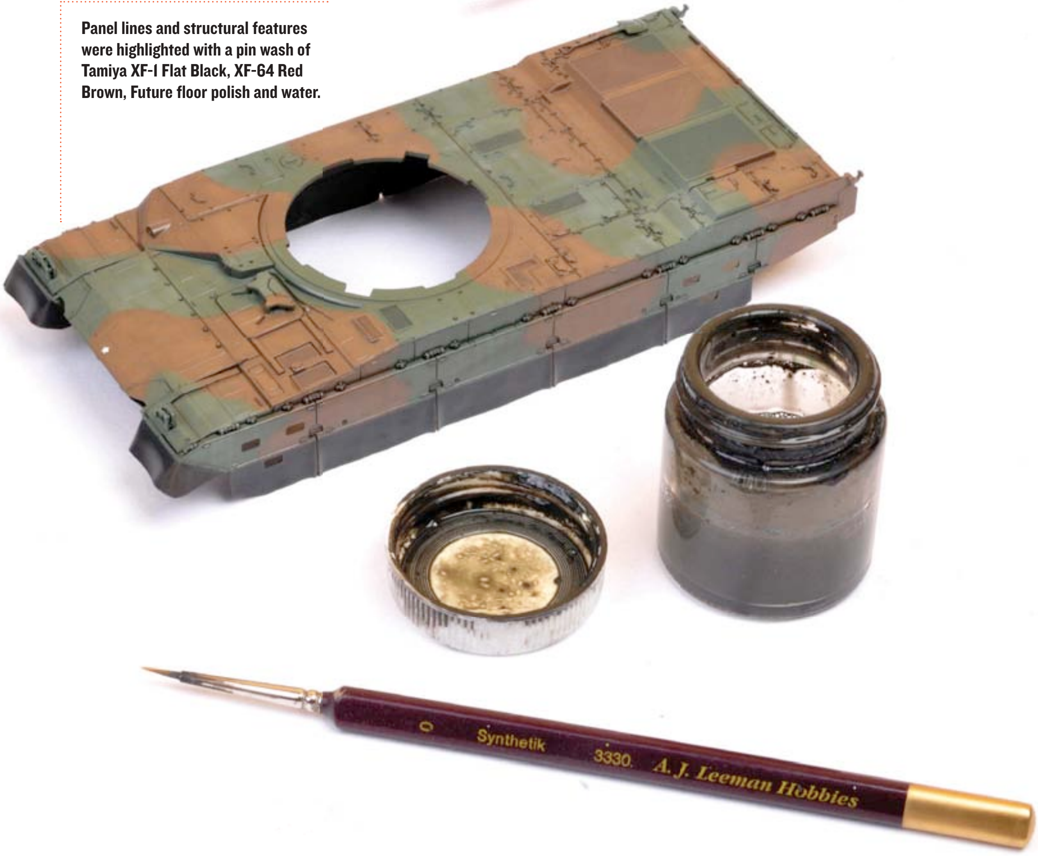
陸上自衛隊 10式戦車 (32588)11403521
JAPAN GROUND SELF DEFENSE FORCE TYPE 10 TANK
1/48
TAMIYA, INC.
0416SA ©2016 TAMIYA

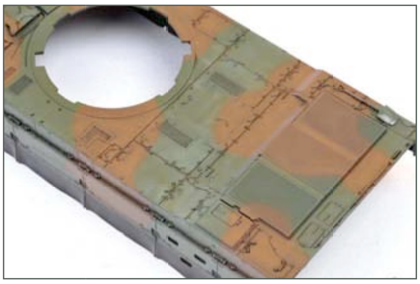
Decals looked thick on the sheet but performed quite well in practice.



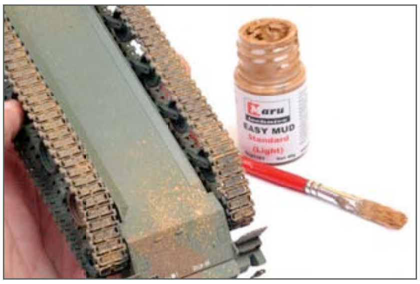
I did end up with a pale ghostly outline of the turret markings as a result of the Solvaset coat over the Future but in this case it actually highlighted the otherwise very low contrast markings.



Panel lines and structural features were highlighted with a pin wash of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black, XF-64 Red Brown, Future floor polish and water.



The wash was applied very selectively using a fine brush.



The tracks were brushed with Maru Easy Mud No. 21101 Standard (Light). The excess was rubbed off with a cloth, leaving the residue embedded in the recessed areas.

◀ CONCLUSION

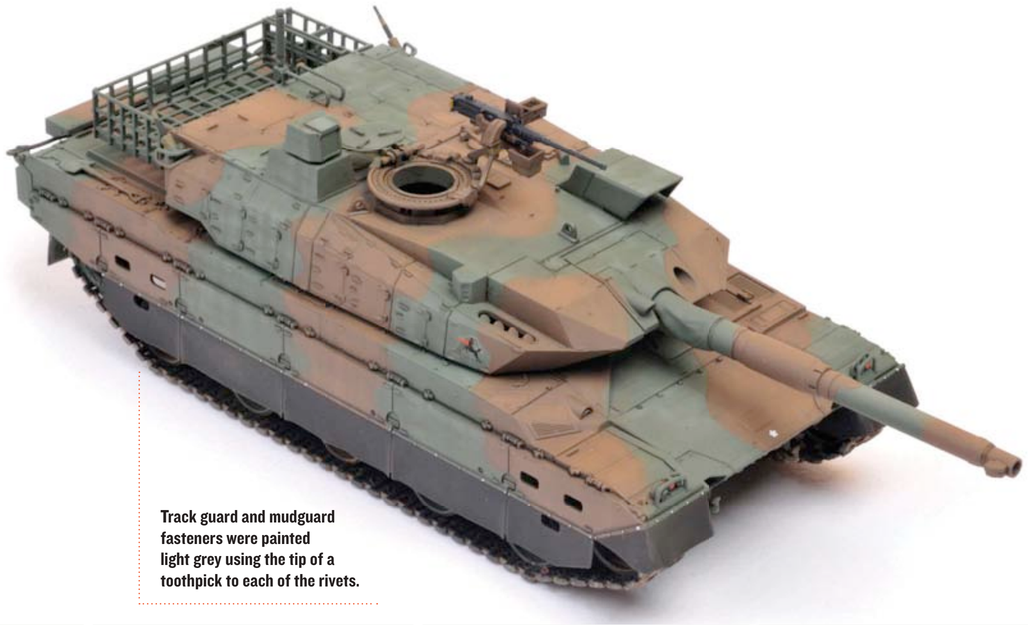
I had no particular interest in modern Japanese tanks until I opened the lid of Tamiya's 1:35 scale Type 10 back in 2013, then I literally could not resist building it.

This 1:48 scale kit had exactly the same effect on me.

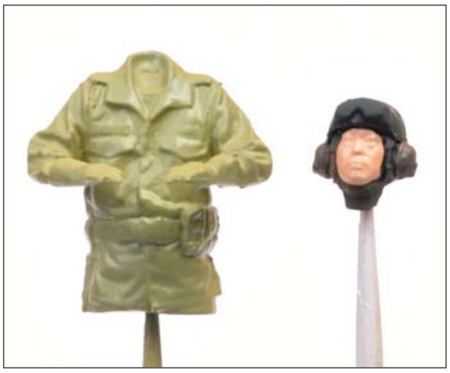
Tamiya has delivered another state-of-the-art kit with its 1:48 scale Type 10, and has further refined their design philosophy of high levels of detail, superb surface textures and modeller-friendly parts breakdown.

Is this Tamiya's best 1:48 scale kit yet? I think it might be.

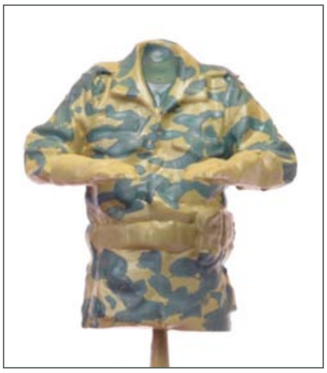
And now that we have a modern subject in the 1:48 scale range, can we hope for an Abrams or a T-55 sometime soon too? ■



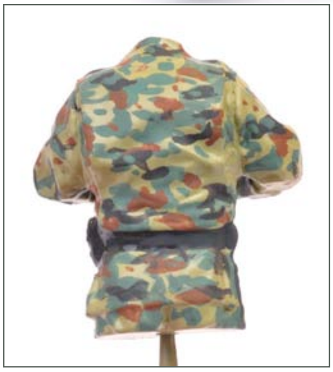
Track guard and mudguard fasteners were painted light grey using the tip of a toothpick to each of the rivets.



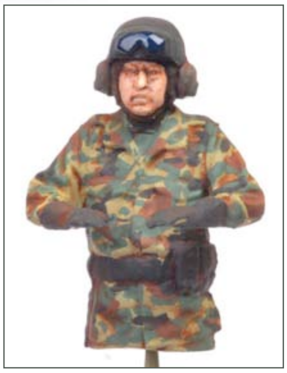
The Commander figure was too nice to not use. The base camouflage colour is a mix of Gunze Interior Green and Tamiya Buff.



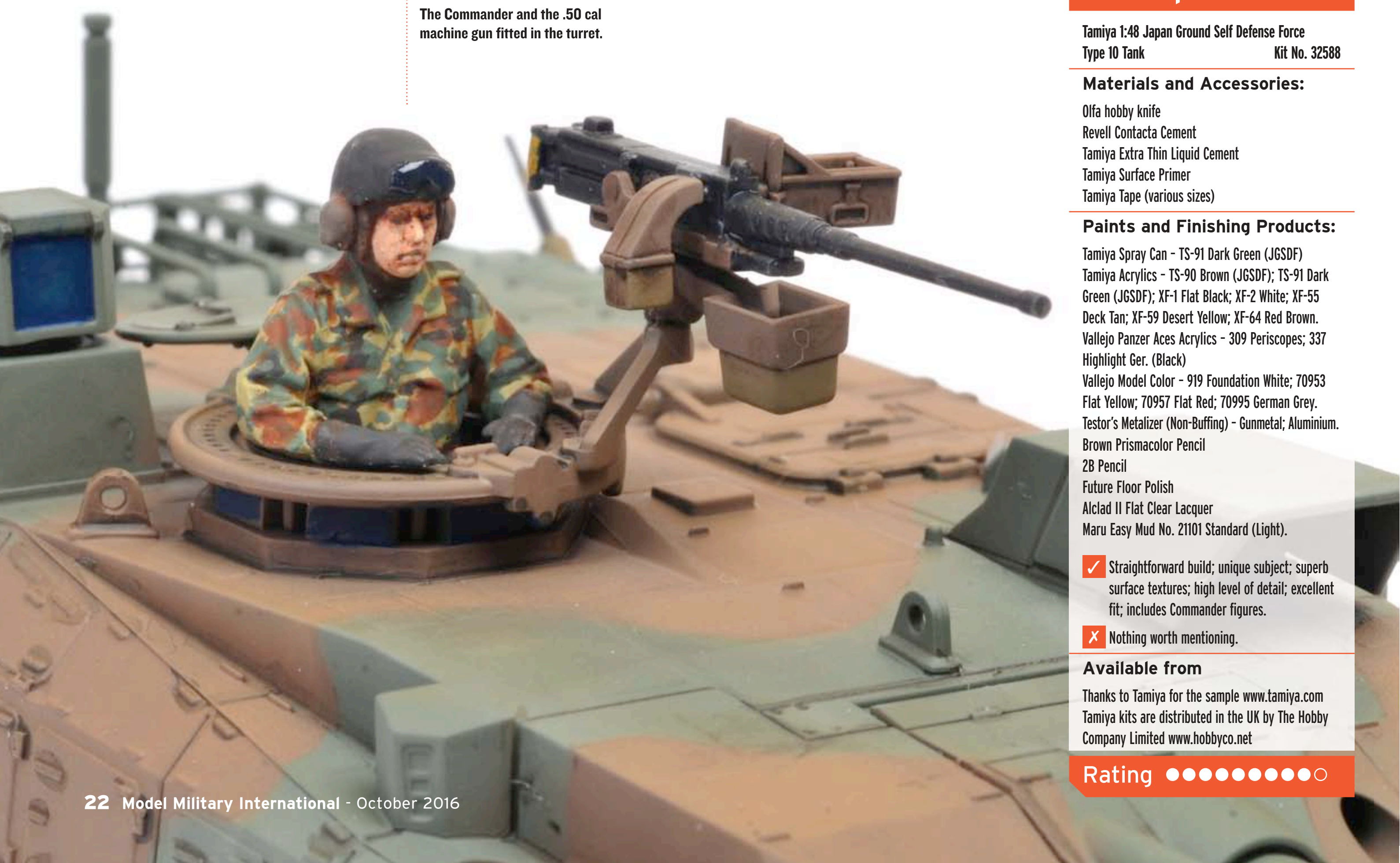
The next step was to apply the green disruptive colour...



...followed by Red Brown and Black.



The face was washed with a thinned blend of Burnt Sienna oil paint and Ronson lighter fluid. Details were then picked out with a fine brush.



The Commander and the .50 cal machine gun fitted in the turret.

Modelspec

Tamiya 1:48 Japan Ground Self Defense Force Type 10 Tank Kit No. 32588

Materials and Accessories:

Olfa hobby knife
Revell Contacta Cement
Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement
Tamiya Surface Primer
Tamiya Tape (various sizes)

Paints and Finishing Products:

Tamiya Spray Can - TS-91 Dark Green (JGSDF)
Tamiya Acrylics - TS-90 Brown (JGSDF); TS-91 Dark Green (JGSDF); XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 White; XF-55 Deck Tan; XF-59 Desert Yellow; XF-64 Red Brown.
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics - 309 Periscopes; 337 Highlight Ger. (Black)
Vallejo Model Color - 919 Foundation White; 70953 Flat Yellow; 70957 Flat Red; 70995 German Grey.
Testor's Metalizer (Non-Buffing) - Gunmetal; Aluminium.
Brown Prismacolor Pencil
2B Pencil
Future Floor Polish
Alclad II Flat Clear Lacquer
Maru Easy Mud No. 21101 Standard (Light).

✓ Straightforward build; unique subject; superb surface textures; high level of detail; excellent fit; includes Commander figures.

✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com
Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●●●●○

Mud spatter was applied to the rear hull and the back of the hull sides using Maru Easy Mud Standard (Light) thinned with water.

The mud was applied by flicking the wet mixture from an old stiff brush. The ends of the tow cables simply hooked over the horns on the upper rear hull sides.

The completed paint job was sealed with Alclad II Klear Kote Flat Lacquer.

> **"Is this Tamiya's best 1:48 scale kit yet? I think it might be…"**

JGSDF TYPE 10 MBT

The Editor gets up and personal with Japan's newest Main Battle Tank.

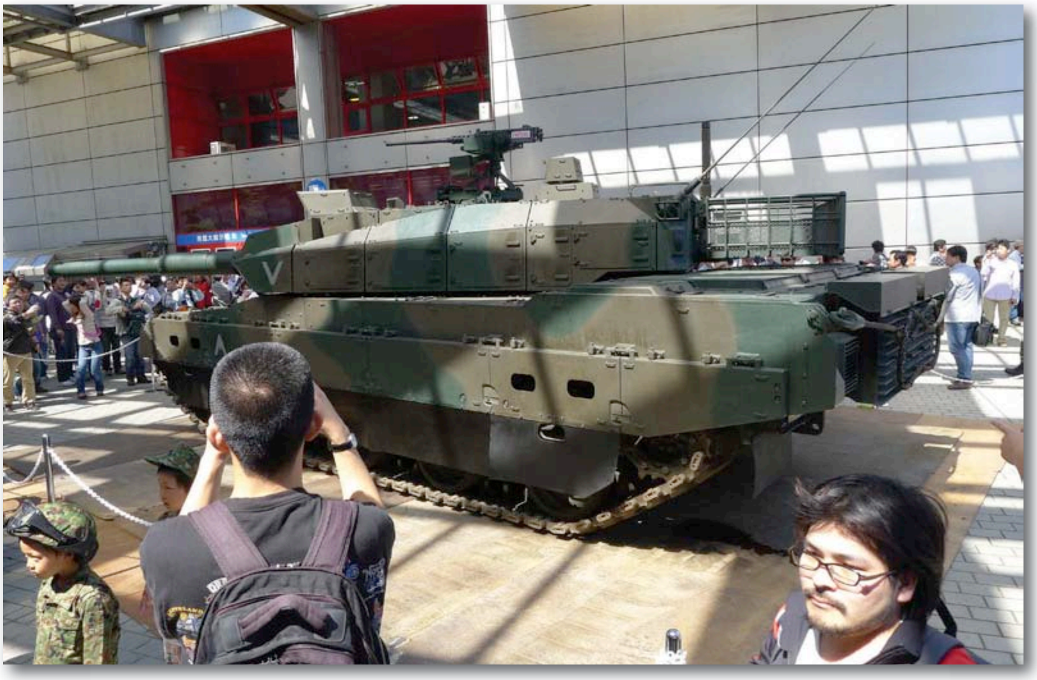
The Japan Ground Self Defense Force attended the 2010 Shizuoka Hobby Show with an impressive display of full-sized vehicles to contrast with the scale models on the display hall tables.

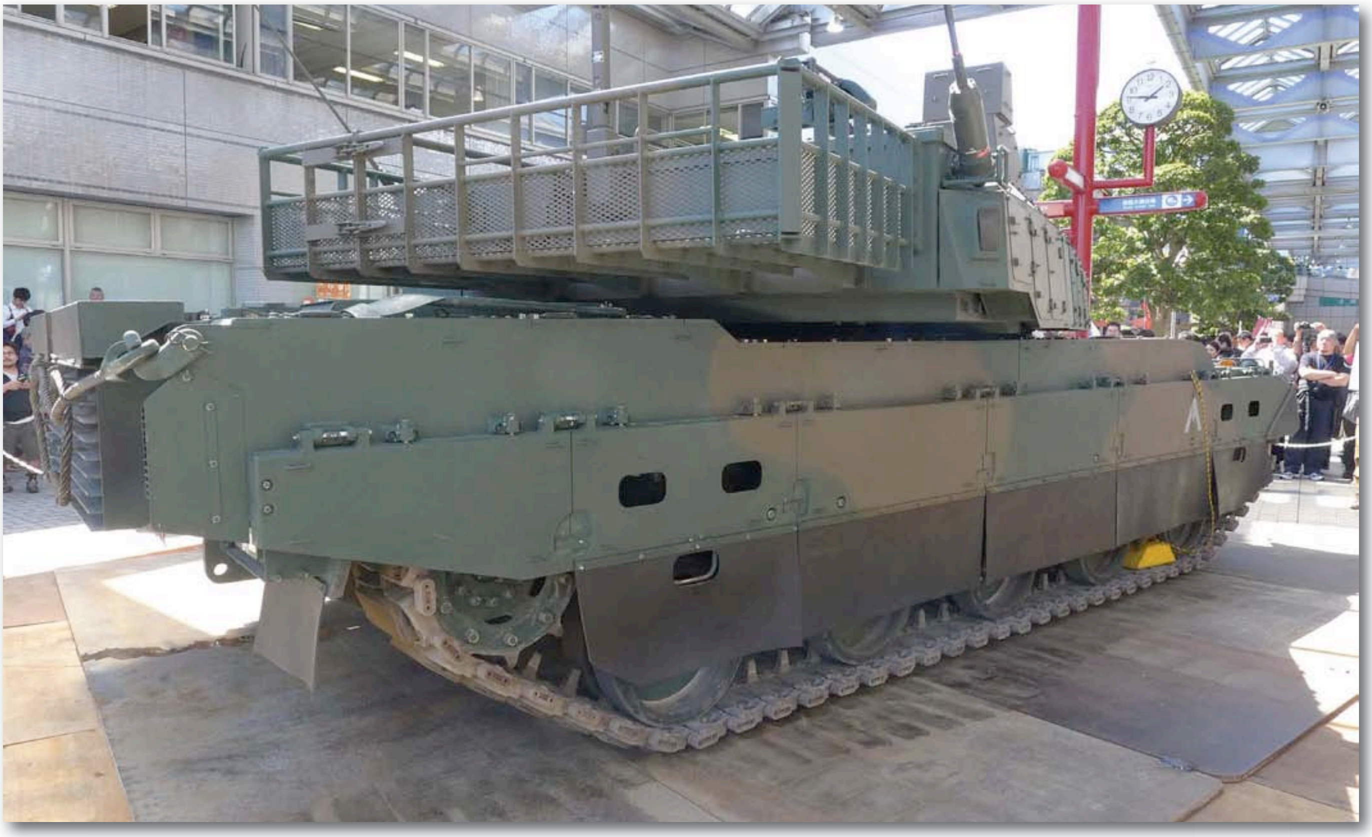
A Type 10 Main Battle Tank was one of the real life vehicles on display.

Although the vehicle was cordoned off from the massive throng attending he weekend Public Days, it was possible to catch a few photos over the top of the crowd.

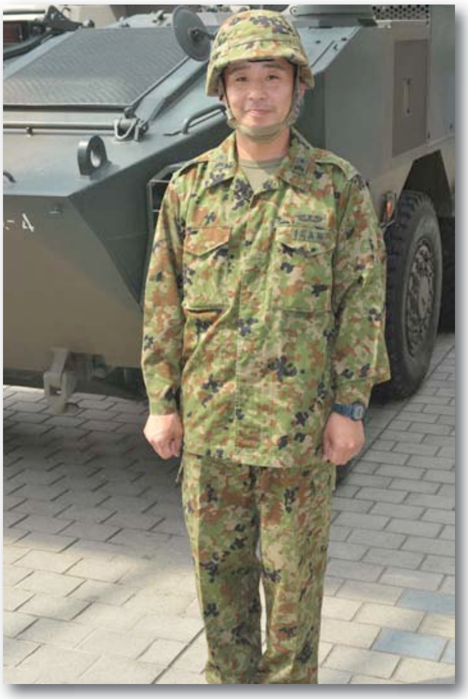
When viewing the vehicles with the naked eye, contrast between the two camouflage colours was very low.

These photos of the vehicle and JGSDF uniforms are offered as additional reference for modellers wishing to build any of the Tamiya Type 10 kits in 1:48, 1:35 or 1:16 scales. ■



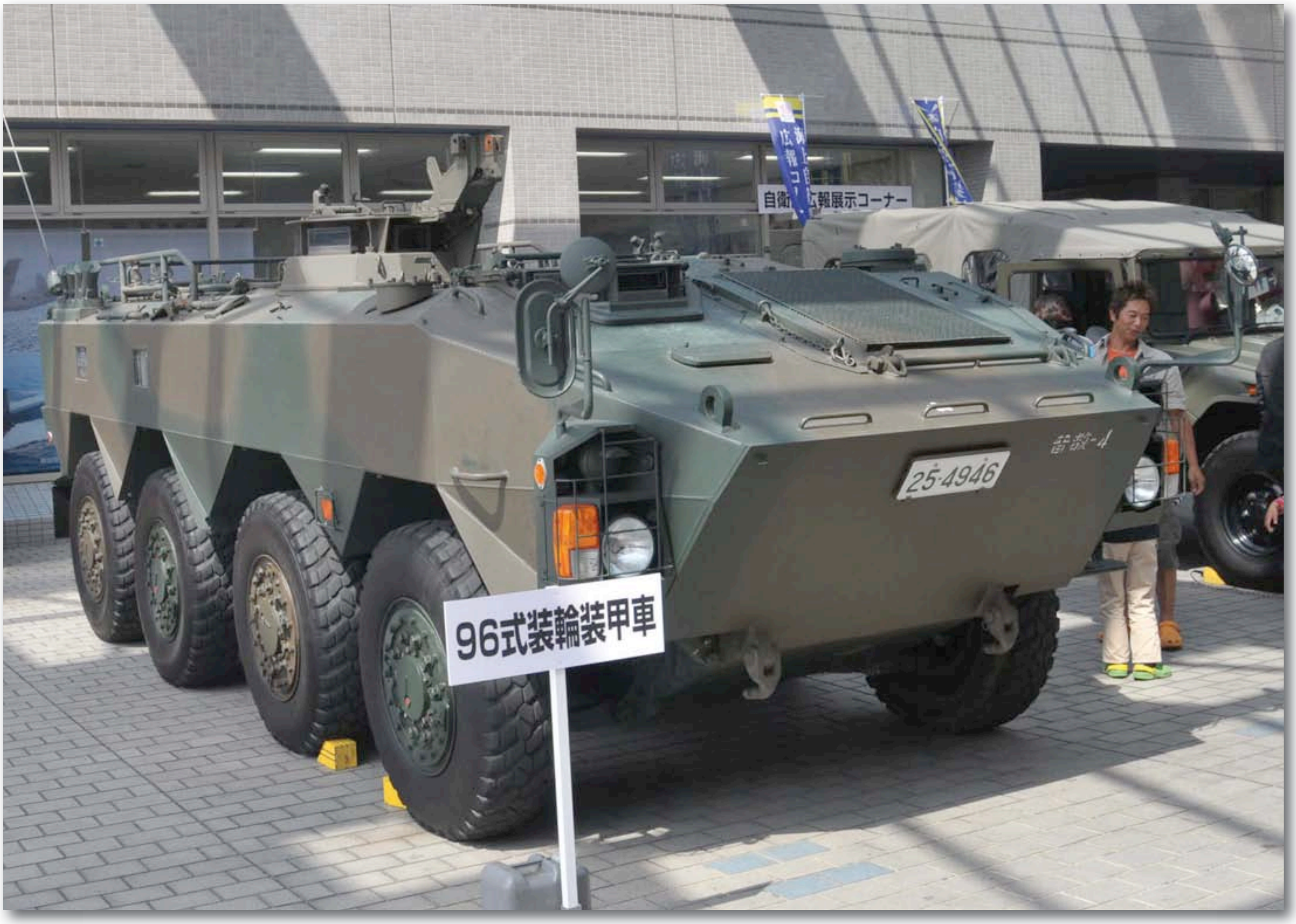


▲ The contrast between the camouflage colours is even lower than this photo suggests. Note that many of the fasteners appear to be bare metal.

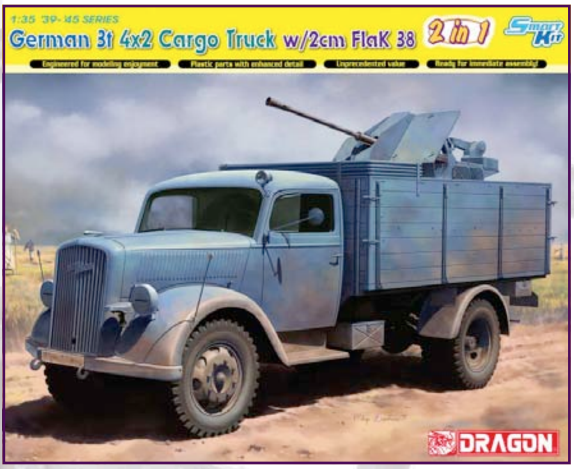


▲ A very co-operative member of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force offers excellent reference for the camouflage uniform colours.

▲ At the 2016 Shizuoka Hobby Show, JGSDF was offering kids the chance to be photographed in uniform!



▲ This Type 96 armoured car was also on display in 2010, wearing the same camouflage colours as the Type 10.



Andy King is impressed with this new combination from Dragon – the Opel Blitz and 2cm Flak 38 gun.

FLAK TRUCK

The 3t 4x2 cargo truck was a general service vehicle built by Opel and used virtually everywhere on every front by the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe, etc. during WWII. Post-war, many were pressed into civilian service so colour schemes for the Opel Blitz were not just confined to drab military ones.

The Opel Blitz has been kitted previously by Dragon and this time around it comes with a 2cm FlaK 38 to stick in the back. All parts are cleanly moulded with little to no flash and the only pin marks that could possibly be visible are under the front fenders. Moulded detail is very good as the radiator grill and those on the bonnet (or hood) are hollow, you get a complete engine block that will only require some cabling and the cab is pretty well detailed and includes decals for the instrument panel dials.

Thankfully there aren't the insane amount of parts you would normally get and all sprues are accounted for. A couple of small frets of photo-etched metal are included, as well as a decal sheet, a clear sprue and masks for the cabin glazing. This was packaged with other sprues but luckily on my example the glazing had not been scratched and it is something that Dragon should be aware about. Having said that one of the side windows isn't very clear and will need to be polished anyway.

As well as the version with the Flak 38, you also have optional parts for the general service truck and you'll need to study the instructions carefully as the changes start from the chassis onward. The Flak 38 itself is an early example fitted with the electronic Flakvisier 38/40 gun sight and shorter barrel (part J1,there are two types supplied). The barrel elevation/ depression is not workable but it can be modelled at four different angles of your choice. Something you don't get though are lots of ammo boxes and magazines as the Flak 38 had quite a high rate of fire and would have gotten through them rapidly. Spare barrels and their cases would have been to hand as well.

The empty shell basket is etched metal but having built this Flak 38 previously I found that it was much easier to make my own. I found some fine nylon mesh in the wedding aisle of a large UK hobby store that did the trick. The two barrels supplied are okay but ideally I would replace them with aftermarket items, as the flash suppressors are impossible to drill without destroying them (believe me - I have tried).

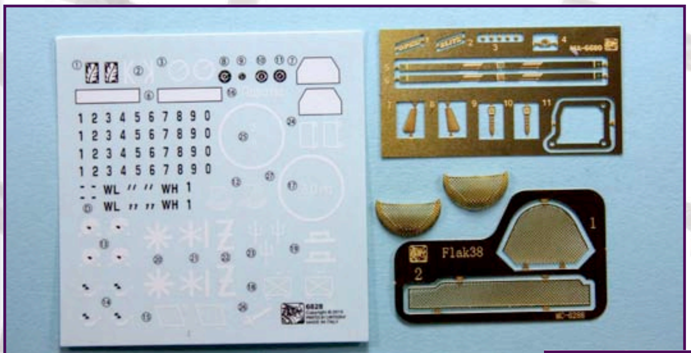
There are seven marking options but once again you have arrows pointing to colours that are not listed at the front of the instructions so you will have to consult a Mr Hobby colour guide for help.

This is probably one of the best Opel Blitz kits on the market and with the addition of the Flak 38 it gives a bit more variety to the general service truck, the gun is also an excellent kit in its own right.

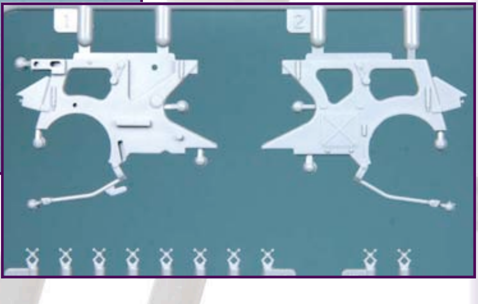
To be picky, Dragon could really do with somebody to proof-read the instructions as virtually every kit I have reviewed has some sort of mistake in them. This might not be so much of a problem for experienced modellers but I can imagine people new to the hobby will be pulling their hair out in clumps.

Still, it's all character building stuff as they say. ■

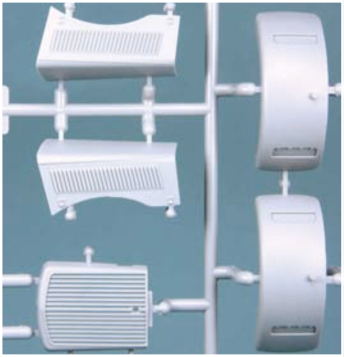
Thanks to the Hobby Company Limited for the review sample
www.hobbyco.net



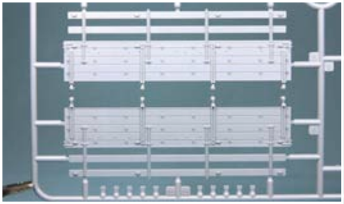
Multimedia and decals.

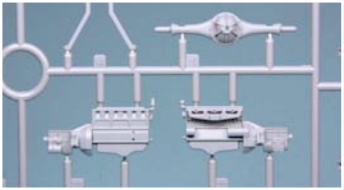

Side gun mounts.

The one piece lower forward section with mudguards.

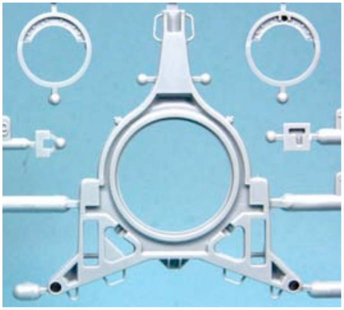

Rear mudguards, radiator and side access hoods.

The rear cargo deck.


Nice detail moulded to the cargo sides.


Engine detail is included.

The chassis.


The mount for the Flak gun.

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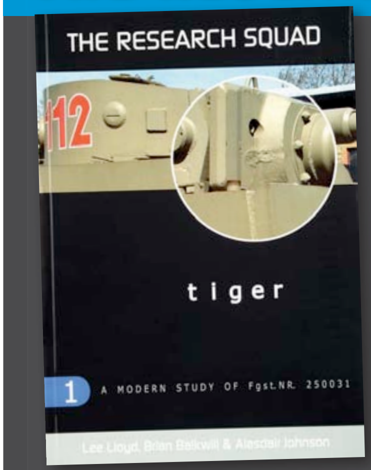

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BALDY'S GAN

The KTO Rosomak (KTO for Kołowy Transporter Opancerzony - Wheeled Armored Vehicle - and Rosomak is Polish for Wolverine) is an 8 x 8 multi-role military vehicle, manufactured in Poland. It is a licensed variant of Finnish company Patria's Armored Modular Vehicle.

The Rosomak entered service with the Polish Land Forces in early 2005, and had its baptism of fire during the Afghanistan War, where they were used by the Polish contingent operating as a part of the ISAF.

As the vehicles that were deployed in Afghanistan initially wore the original 'European' camouflage scheme, they gained a nickname 'Green Devil' from the Taliban. In the course of time, the Rosomaks received an overall sand colour finish that was more suitable for the local conditions, but both their nickname and fame remained.

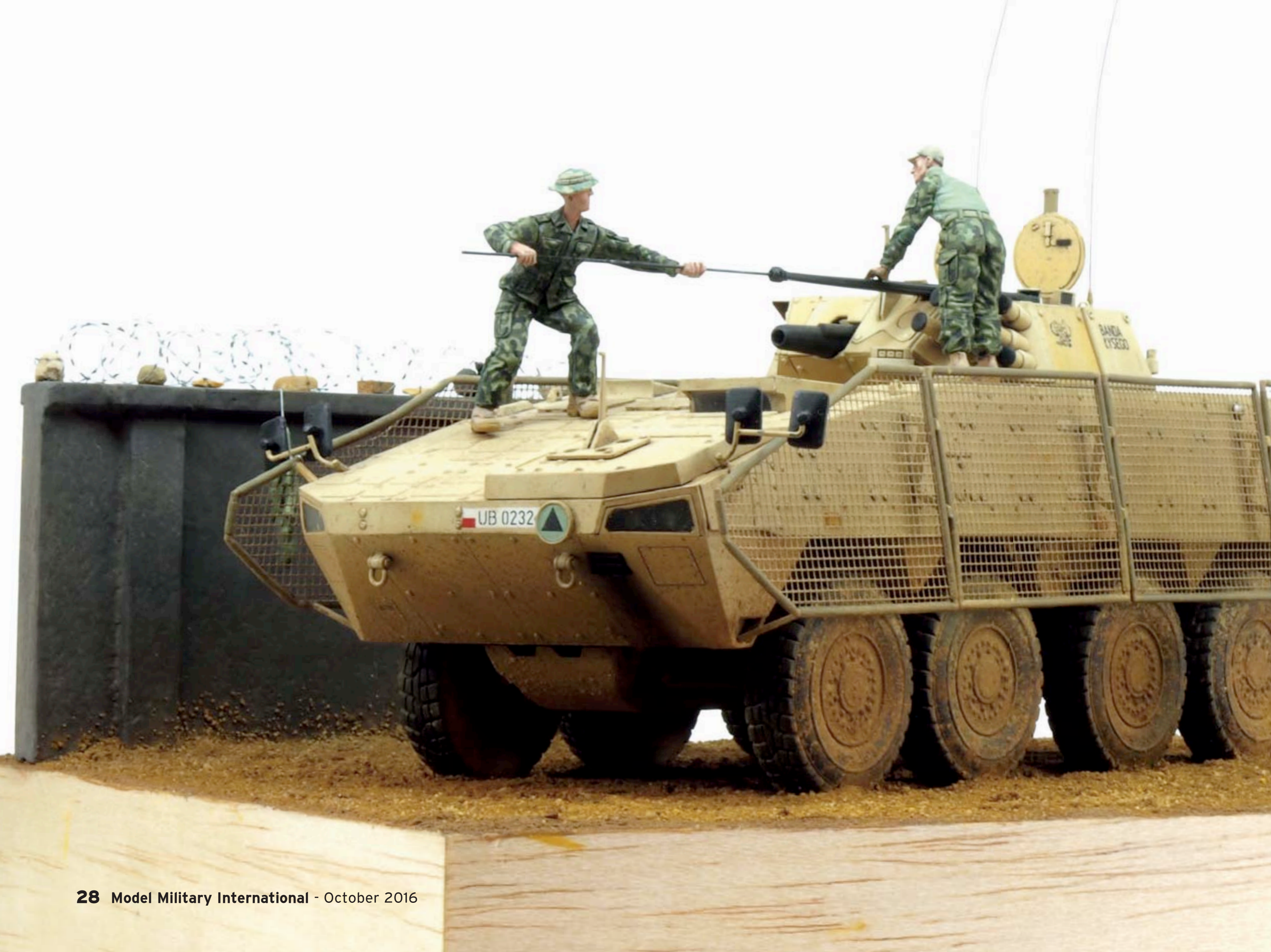
It is surprising then, that the Rosomak didn't gain attention of the kit manufacturers earlier, who otherwise often compete with more niche subjects. Fortunately, this market gap was finally filled by IBG Models.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

My experiences with the previous releases of the Polish company were good, so I wasn't worried about the quality of the new kit. Despite this, I must admit that the test shot sprues of the 1:35 scale Rosomak brought a few surprises. First of all, I didn't anticipate that the kit would consist of so many parts. Unexpectedly, the designers chose to replicate the basic parts of the interior, including the engine. This decision, together with the faithful reproduction of the complicated running gear and chassis, led to a significant raise of the part count.

The surface details are both fine and sharp. Just perfect! You may be aware that I'm not a fan of slide-moulding technology, but in the case of this kit, its use brought benefits rather than trouble. Only the representation of the anti-slip coating should be more distinct, but I was told that this minor glitch will be fixed before the kit hits the market.

The wheels are built from a number of pieces. The nicely recreated tyre tread brings instant recogniton.



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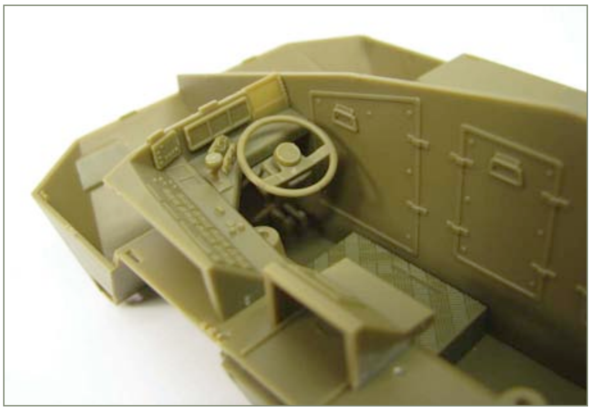
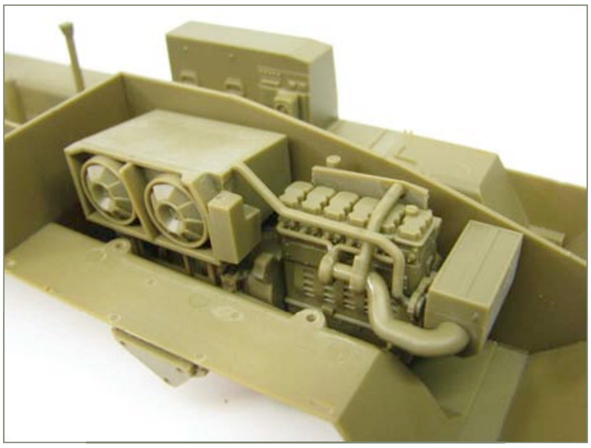
Kamil Feliks Sztarbała builds and details the brand new 1:35 scale IBG KTO Rosomak "The Green Devil" (ISAF).

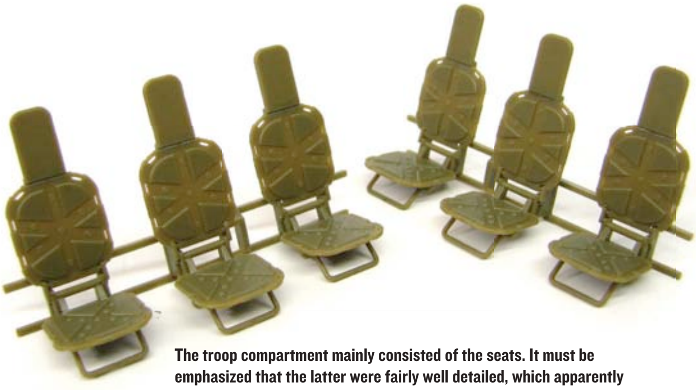
Building the Interior



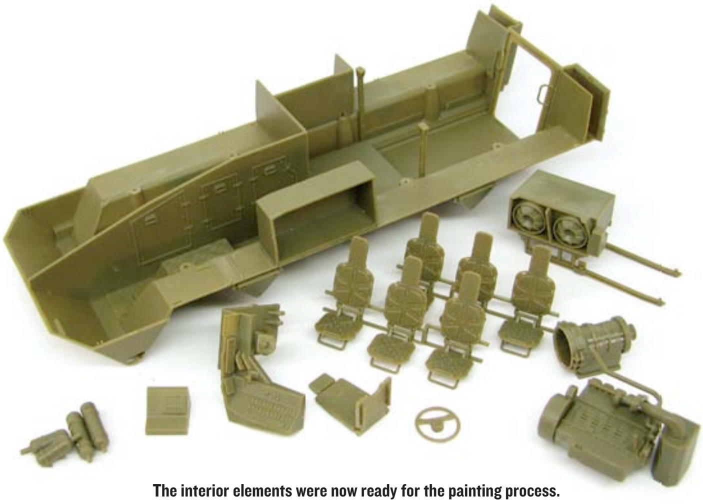
Construction started with the driver's compartment. The manufacturer quite faithfully represents most of its equipment.



Next, I built the engine. It turned out to be rather simplified, but considering that it won't be visible in the finished kit, this makes no difference.



The troop compartment mainly consisted of the seats. It must be emphasized that the latter were fairly well detailed, which apparently forced the designers to divide them into a significant number of parts.

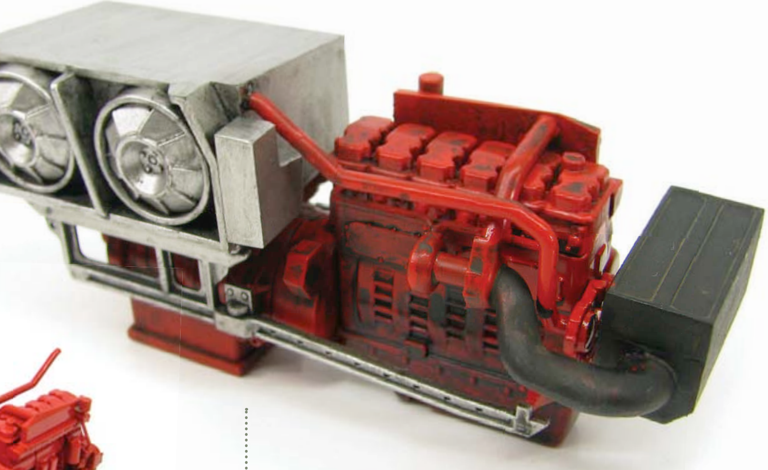


The interior elements were now ready for the painting process. For those who, like me, do not plan to open all hatches, this level of interior detail should be absolutely sufficient.

Firstly, I dealt with the engine sub-assemblies. They were given a priming coat of Tamiya XF-66 'Light Gray'.

The cooling system and engine frame were painted with Vallejo 77702 'Duraluminium'...

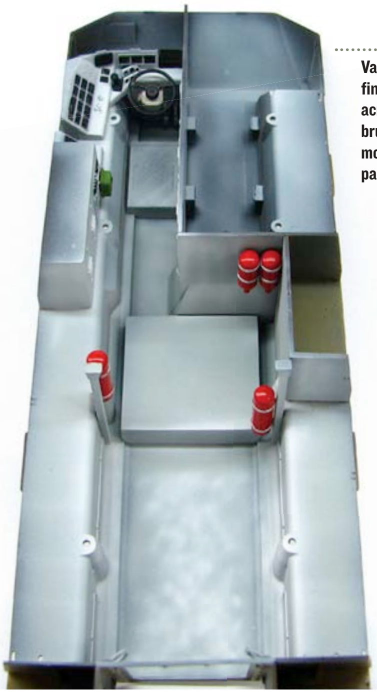
...whilst other parts received a layer of Mr.Color C79 'Shine Red', applied with an airbrush. At this juncture, I also airbrushed a few strokes over the fire extinguishers, that were intended for the troop compartment.

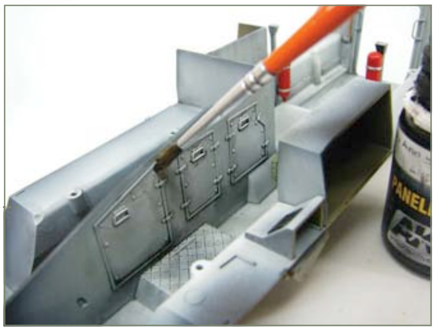

Once I'd assembled the engine, I brought out the details with AK-Interactive AK2033 'Aircraft Engine & Turbines Wash'.

The hull interior was primed with AK-Interactive AK178 'Black Primer'. This was also applied to some details that had been left separate, allowing for easier handling.

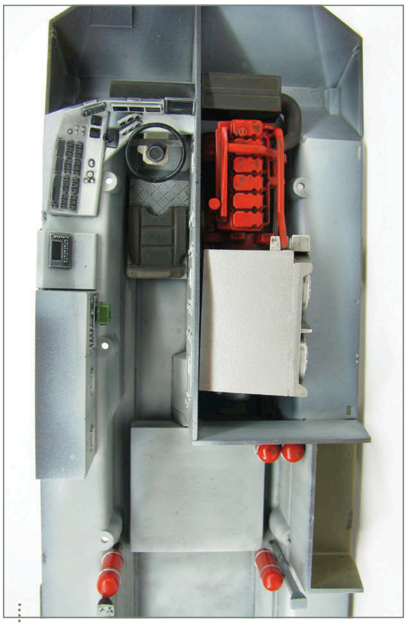
This was followed by spraying a transparent coat of the base colour, namely Mr.Color C334 'Barley Gray'.

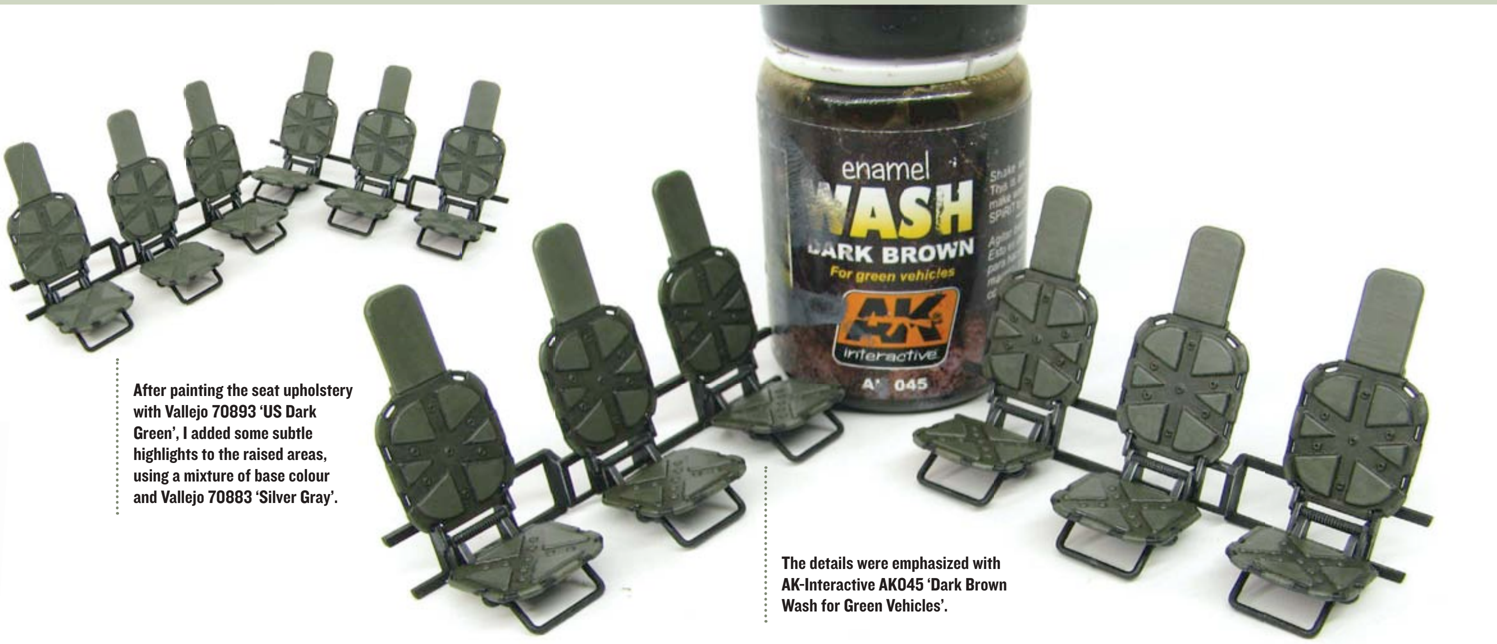
Afterwards, I highlighted the chosen areas and details with heavily diluted Mr.Color C69 'Off White'. I also airbrushed some meandering lines and streaks over the floor, in order to bring more variety to the surface colour.


Various details were finished with Vallejo acrylics, applied with a brush. At this stage, I also mounted the previously painted fire extinguishers.


I then spread AK-Interactive AK2072 'Paneliner for Grey and Blue Camouflage' over all surfaces.

The excess enamel was distributed into the nooks and crannies and around details, using a brush that had been previously dampened with white spirit.


With the engine fixed in place, I could focus on the troop compartment.

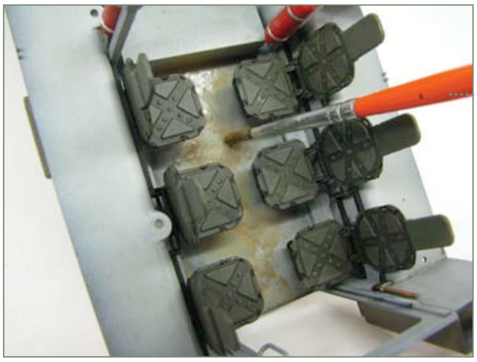

enamel
WASH
DARK BROWN
For green vehicles
AK interactive

After painting the seat upholstery with Vallejo 70893 'US Dark Green', I added some subtle highlights to the raised areas, using a mixture of base colour and Vallejo 70883 'Silver Gray'.

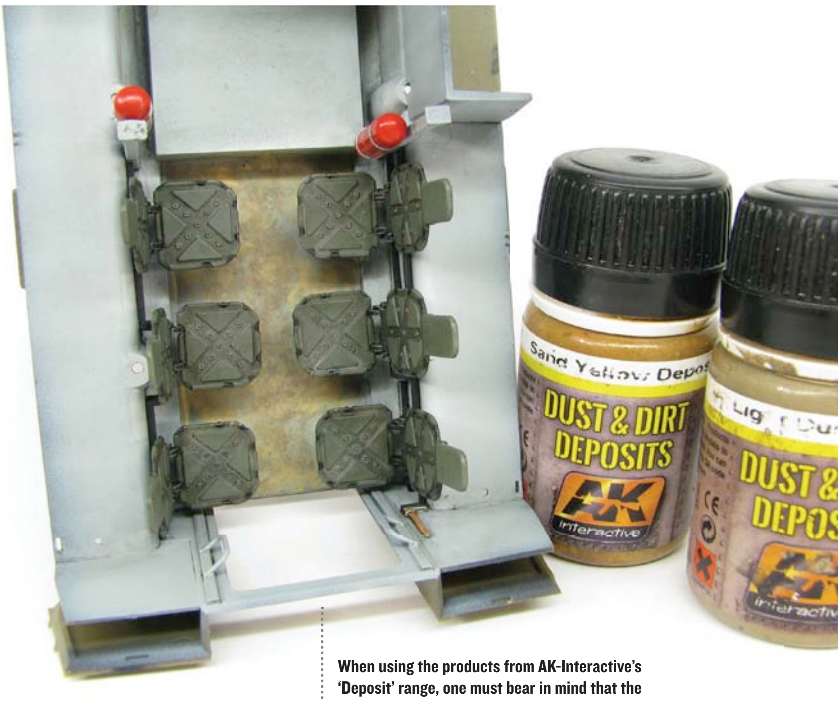
The details were emphasized with AK-Interactive AK045 'Dark Brown Wash for Green Vehicles'.

PRISMA
MEXICO

Finally, I added a metallic sheen to the grommets, using a silver pencil.

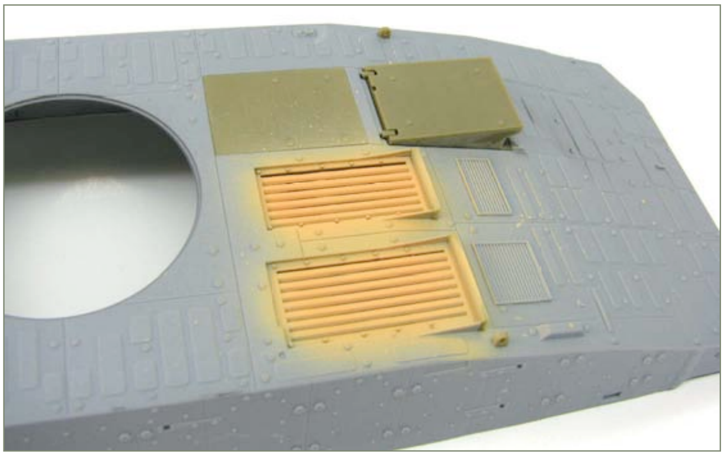


The dirt on the floor of the troop compartment was recreated with AK-Interactive's AK4061 'Sand Yellow Deposit' and AK4062 'Light Dust Deposit'. I dampened the surface with white spirit and applied the enamel products, one after another.


Sand Yellow Depos
DUST & DIRT
DEPOSITS
AK interactive

When using the products from AK-Interactive's 'Deposit' range, one must bear in mind that the effect becomes more intensive as the product dries.

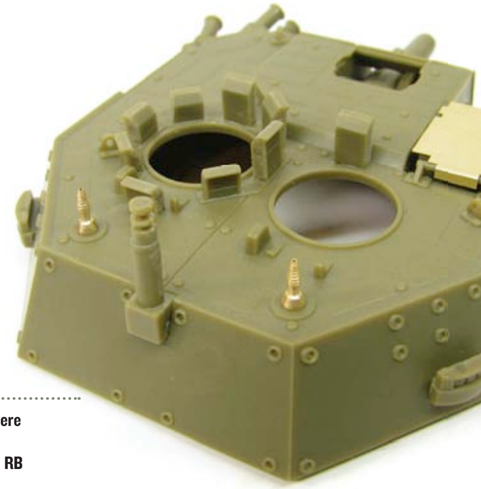
Before I could close the hull, I had to mask the hatch apertures from the inside…



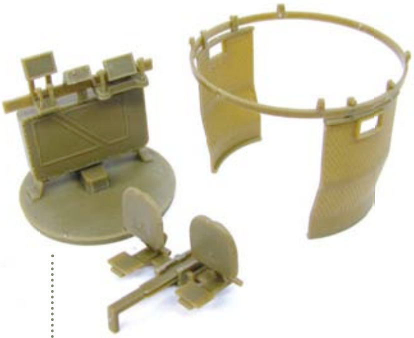
…and airbrush the engine grilles with Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow. If I did this after gluing the hull halves, I would risk over-spraying the engine cooling system, located under the grilles.

Turret

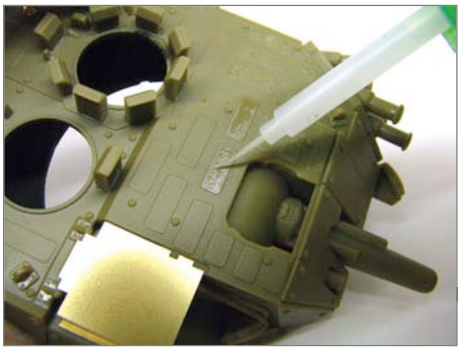
A minor disappointment came at the very beginning of the turret assembly. It turned out to be designed in such a way that the main gun must be attached in a fixed position. To elevate the barrel, one would need to seriously modify the kit parts.



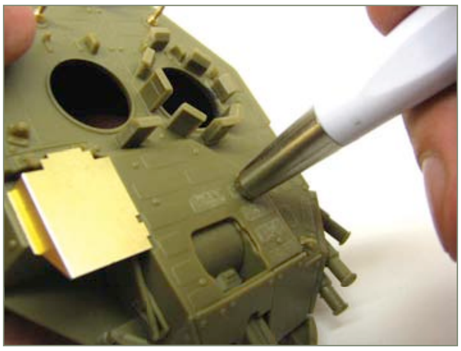
The plastic aerial mounts were replaced with turned metal counterparts, sourced from RB Model RB35A13 set.



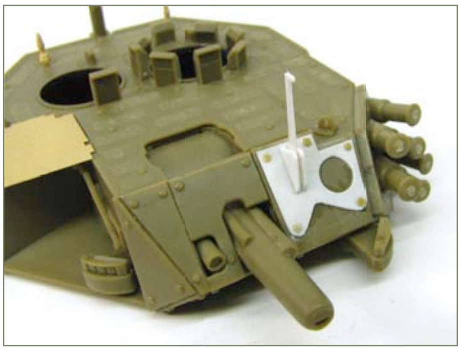
During the combat compartment construction, I left some sub-assemblies separate, as putting them together at this stage, would hamper the further painting process.



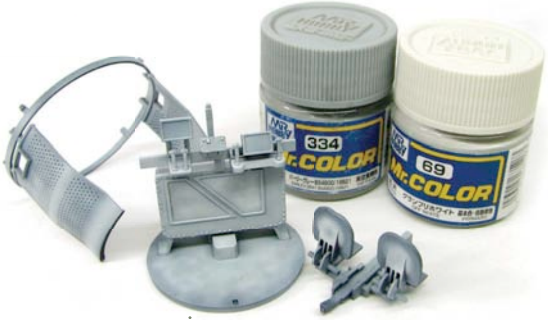
The test shot parts didn't feature the anti-slip coating texture. To correct this, I 'painted' the relevant areas with Tamiya Extra Thin Cement...



...and imprinted a rugged texture onto the softened plastic, using a special scratch brush with metal bristles.

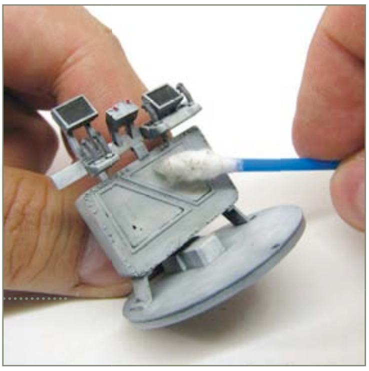


The last exterior details to be added, were the wire cutters. The kit includes a set of these intended for the hull only, whilst the vehicle I wanted to depict, had the cutters additionally mounted on the turret.

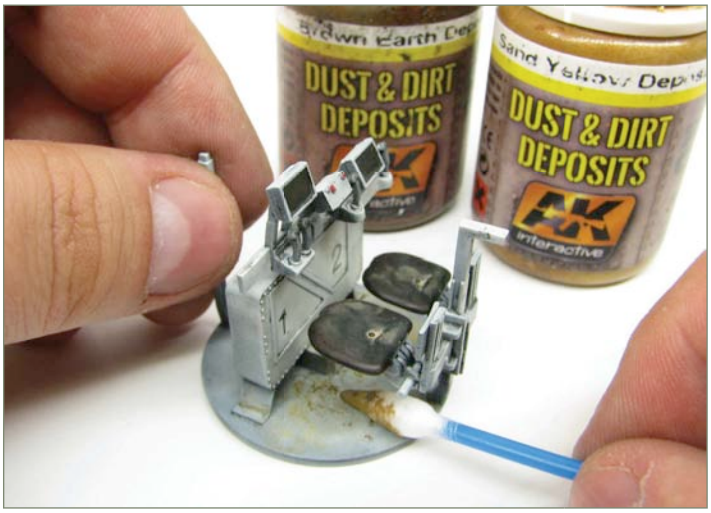


The combat compartment was painted in the same way as the hull interior.

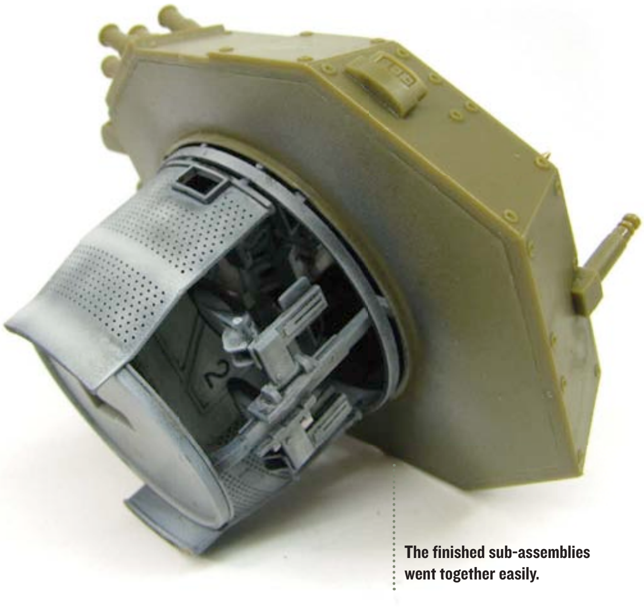
Next, I applied AK-Interactive AK2072 'Paneliner for Grey and Blue Camouflage' over all surfaces.



Before the enamel had fully dried, I removed the excess with cotton buds.



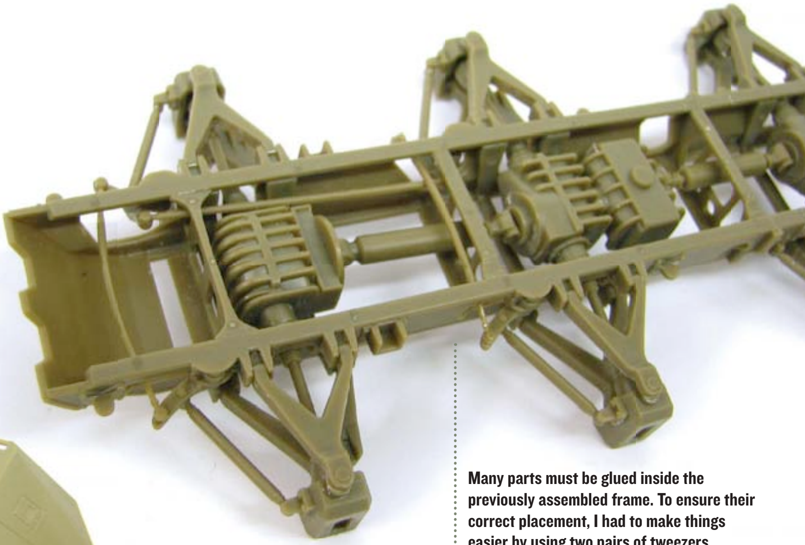
I also used the latter for spreading AK-Interactive's 'Dust and Dirt Deposits' over the floor.



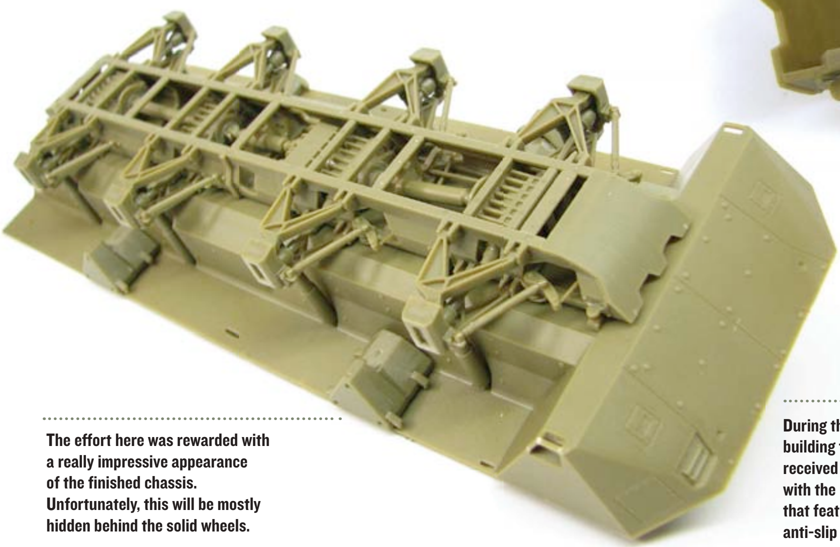
The finished sub-assemblies went together easily.

Hull

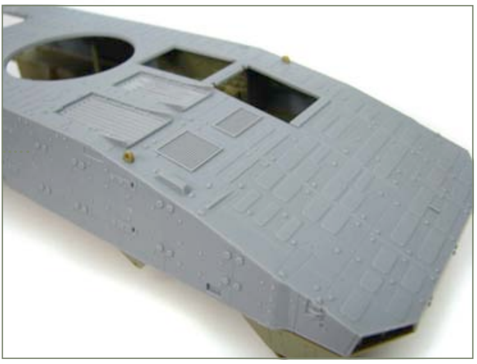
Without a doubt, the chassis and suspension were the most complicated sections of this kit. Due to the high level of detail, construction of the drive system required the simultaneous fitting of a number of parts. At the same time, I had to manipulate the position of the control arms against the hull.



Many parts must be glued inside the previously assembled frame. To ensure their correct placement, I had to make things easier by using two pairs of tweezers.

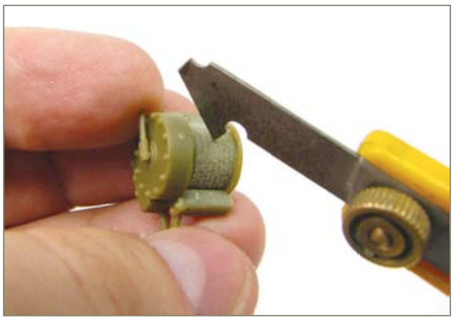


The effort here was rewarded with a really impressive appearance of the finished chassis. Unfortunately, this will be mostly hidden behind the solid wheels.

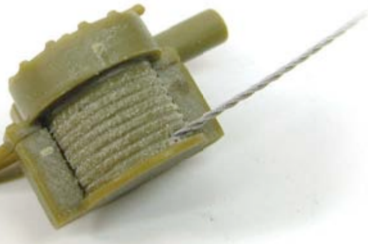


During the process of building the turret, I received a reworked sprue with the upper hull half, that featured the corrected anti-slip coating. Now I could put the hull together and turn my attention to the external details.

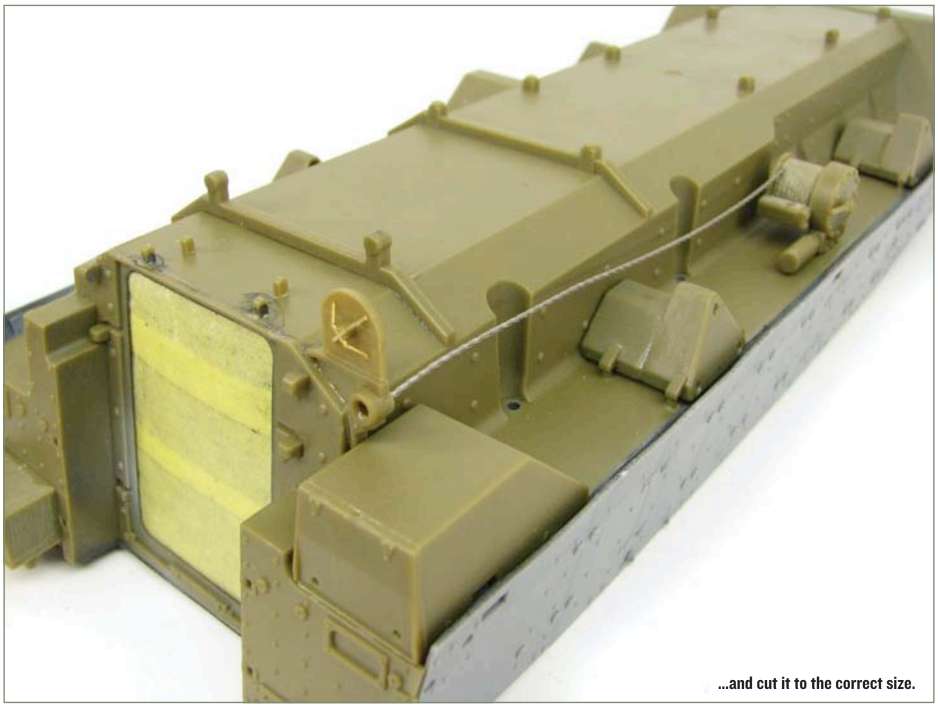
> "I didn't anticipate that the kit would consist of so many parts..."



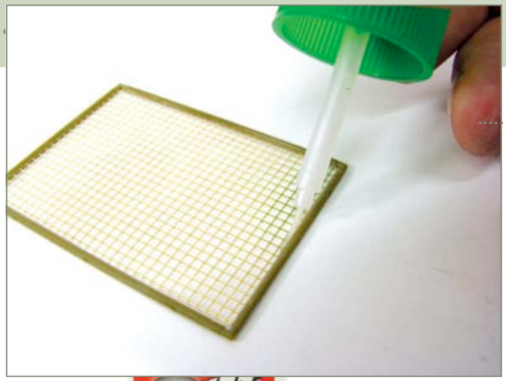
To improve the winch, I firstly recreated the steel wire texture on the drum.



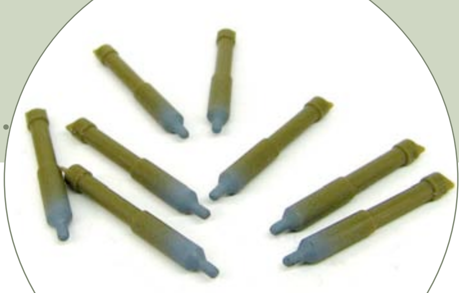
Afterwards, I inserted a 0.7mm metal cable into a previously drilled aperture...



...and cut it to the correct size.



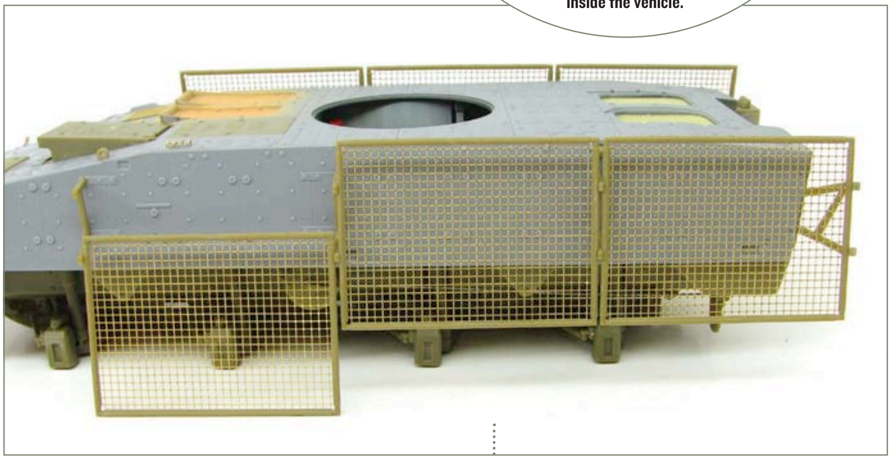
The anti-RPG screens were built from both plastic and photo-etched parts. I pre-installed the latter within the plastic frames, using Tamiya Extra Thin Cement. This allowed me to easily position the flat metal parts, whilst the softened plastic sufficiently secured them.



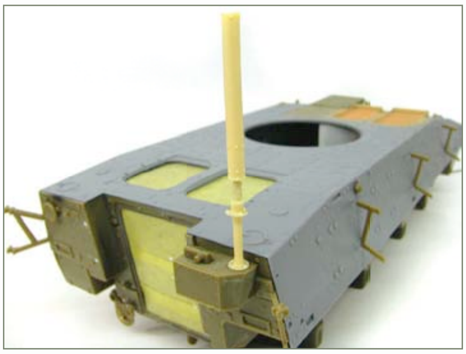
Whilst mounting the suspension, one must remember to paint the upper parts of the dampers, as their ends are visible inside the vehicle.

ROKET
HOT
Super-thin penetrating cyano glue.
Bonds 1-5 sec.
20g

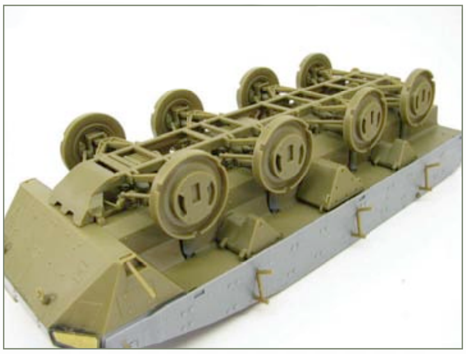
Once the plastic had became stiff again, I fixed the joints with Roket Hot cyano glue, from Deluxe Materials. This adhesive is very thin, and flows by capillary action in a very similar manner to Tamiya Extra Thin Cement. Definitely recommended!



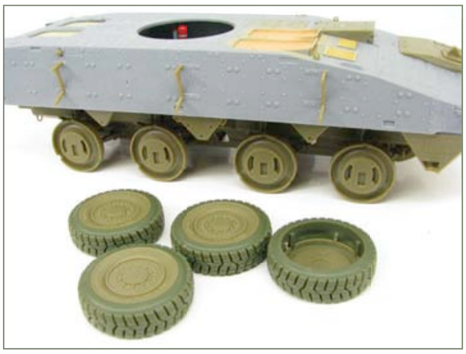
The assembled screens could be left separate for the painting phase without any problems, because they perfectly fitted onto the racks on the hull.



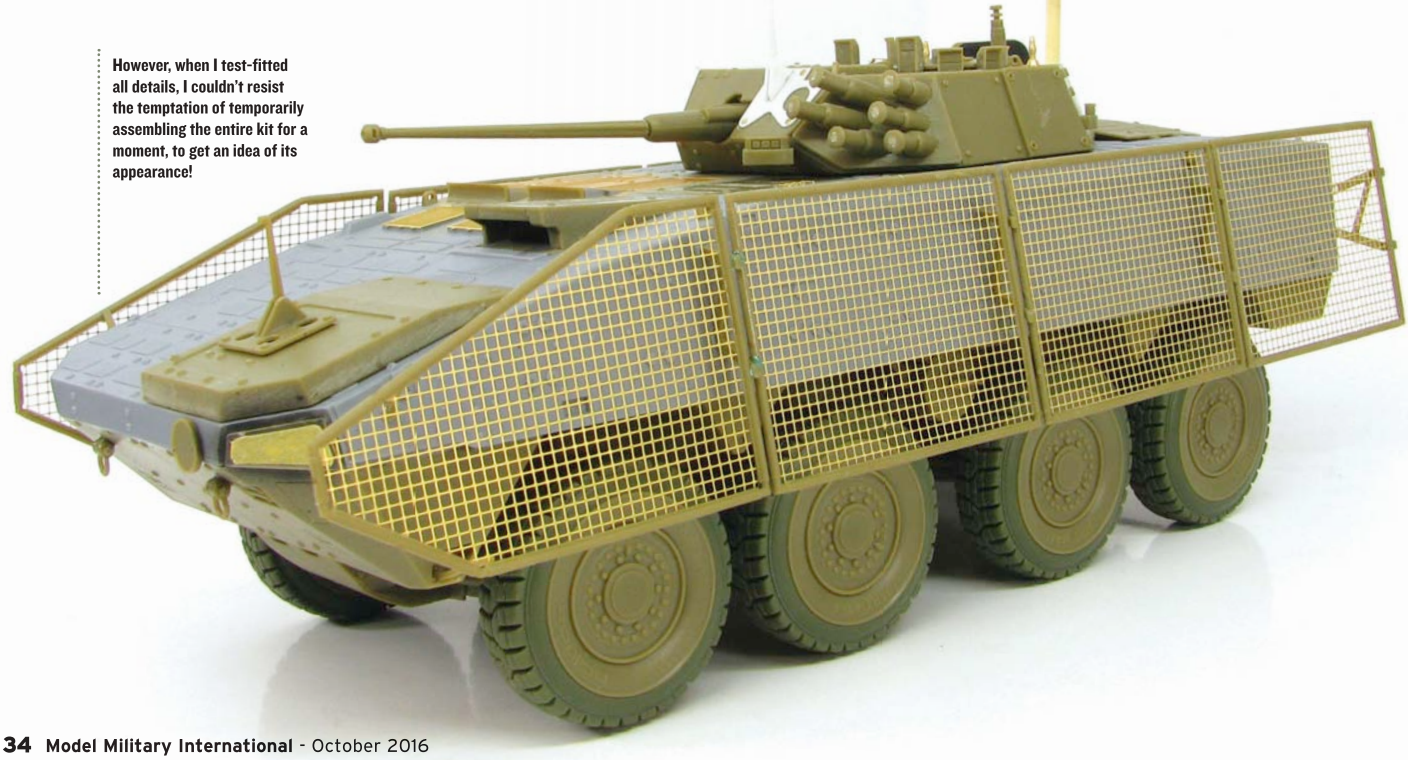
The rear aerial was replaced with a resin Duke EIED Antenna from E.T. Model's E35-140 'Modern U.S. Vehicle Anti IED Device' set.



Instead of putting the entire set of wheels together, I decided to only fix the inner discs to the suspension.



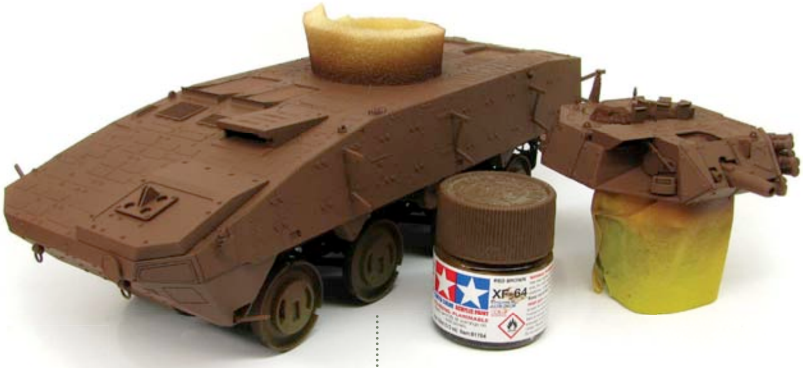
The rims were glued with tyre tread and left separate, allowing for easier handling during the painting and weathering stages.



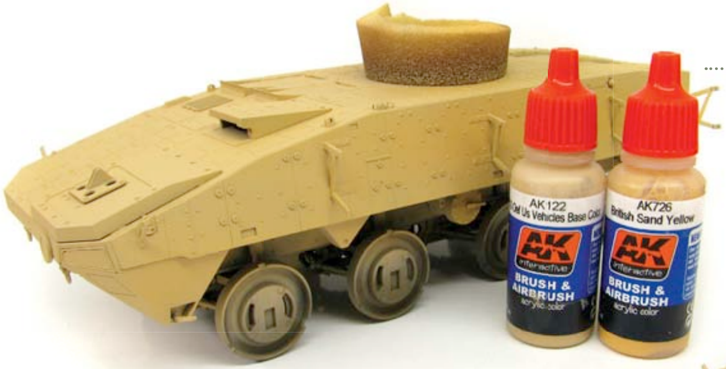
However, when I test-fitted all details, I couldn't resist the temptation of temporarily assembling the entire kit for a moment, to get an idea of its appearance!

Paintwork

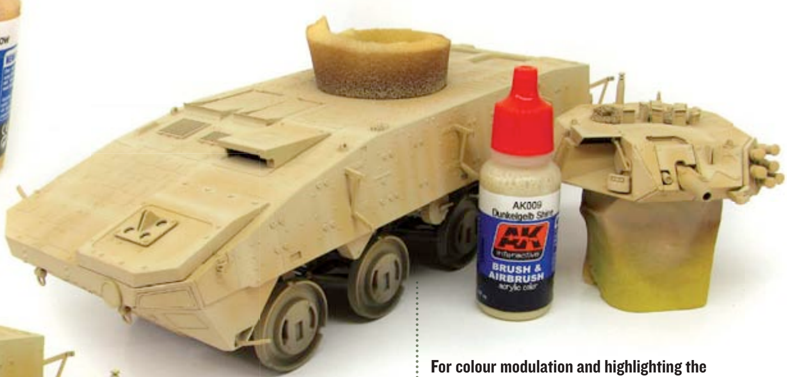
At the very beginning of this project, I chose to depict a particular vehicle, that was nick-named "Banda Łysego" (Polish for "Baldy's Gang"). This required a few minor modifications to the base kit, that I had implemented during the assembly stage, and of course, obtaining the necessary markings. The latter were sourced from the latest set released by ToRo Model, which offers markings for a total of 8 vehicles, including the nicknames, cartoon gorilla emblems and licence plates for "Baldy's Gang'. The painting scheme itself was rather plain, as the entire APC was painted overall in sand yellow.



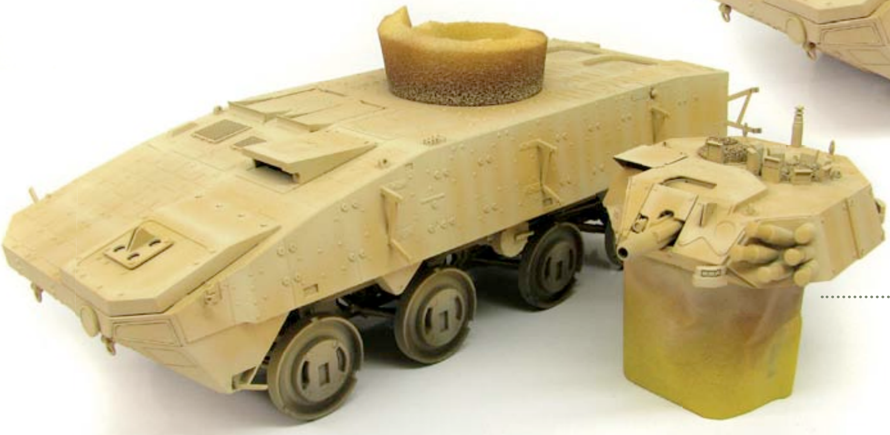
I started by priming the kit with a coat of Tamiya XF-64 'Red Brown'.


AK122
AK726
British Sand Yellow
AK interactive
BRUSH & AIRBRUSH

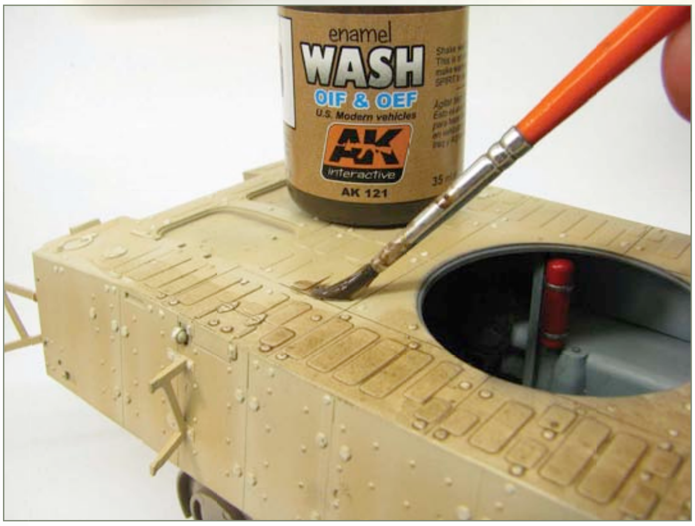
Next, I applied a basecoat of AK-Interactive AK122 'OIF & OEF US Vehicles Base Colour'. Only the inner sides of the hatches were airbrushed with a slightly darker tone, namely AK-Interactive AK726 'British Sand Yellow'.


AK009
Dunkelgelb Shine
AK interactive
BRUSH & AIRBRUSH

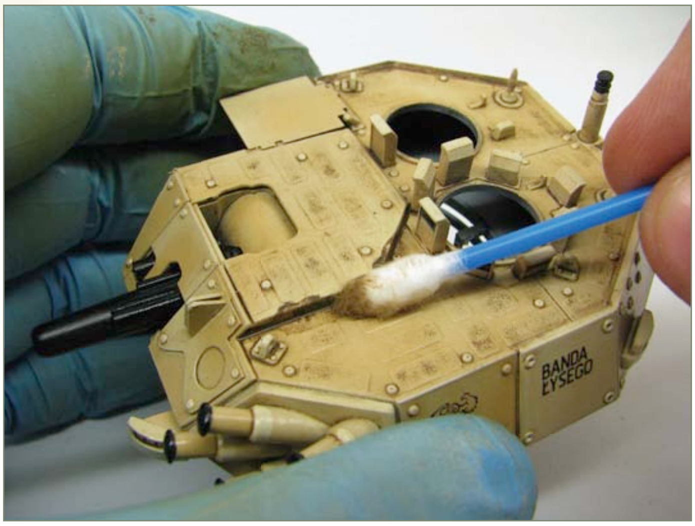
For colour modulation and highlighting the chosen edges, I used AK-Interactive AK009 'Dunkelgelb Shine'. I also sprayed some vertical streaks over the sides of the hull.



The same paint was brushed onto various surface details, ie. rivets, bolts and edges of protruding constructional elements, in order to create further highlights.

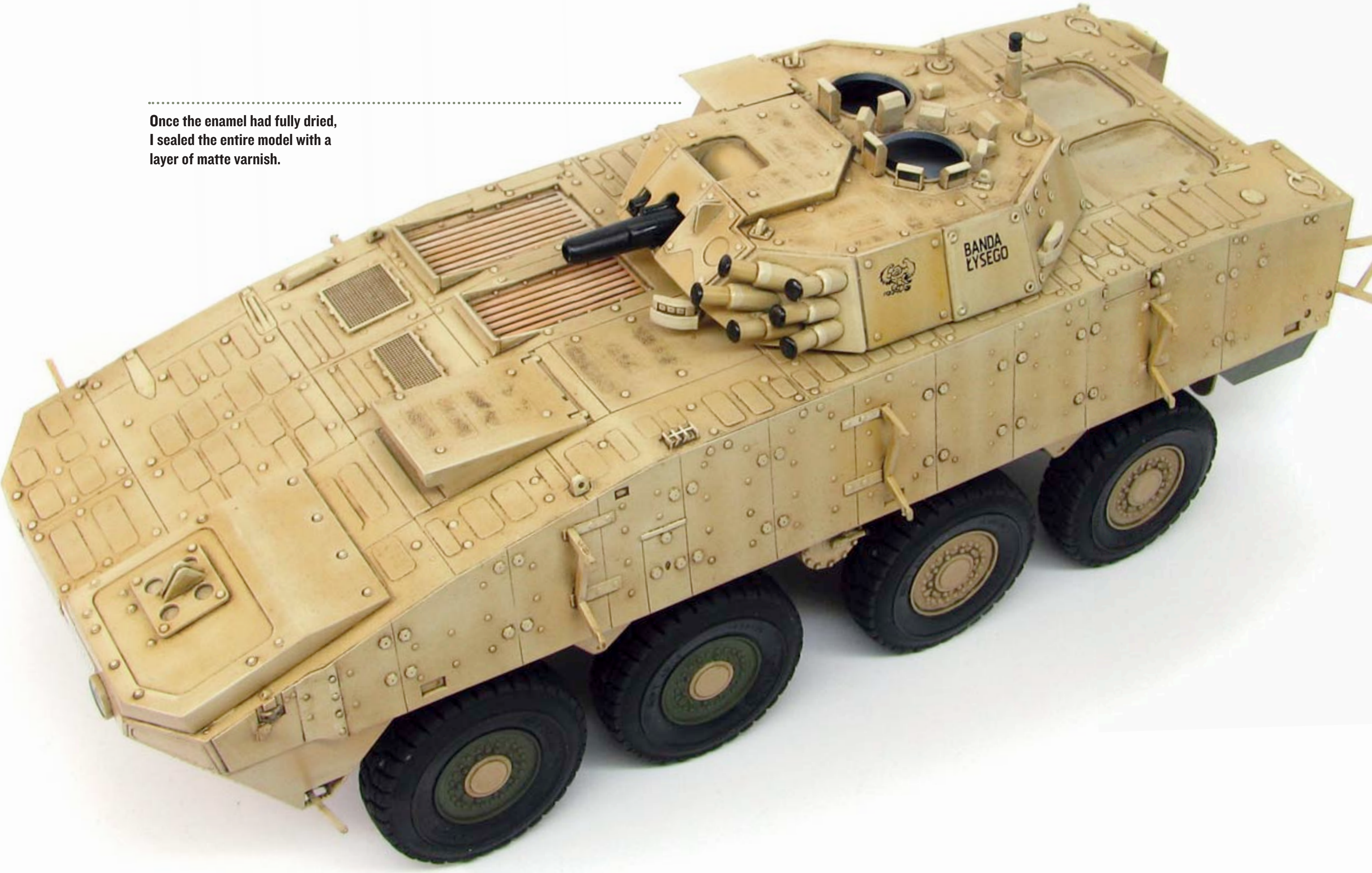

enamel
WASH
OIF & OEF
U.S. Modern vehicles
AK interactive
AK 121

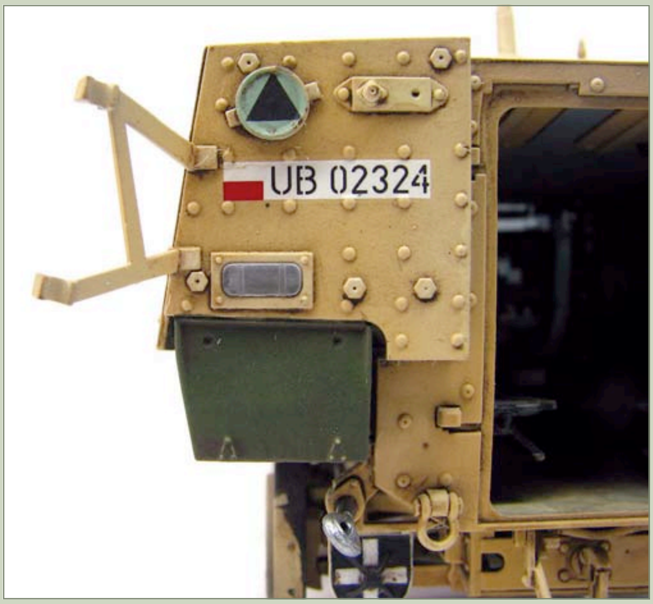
At this stage, I also painted the tyres and other parts that had to receive colours other than the basic sand yellow. Decals went on easily when soaked with a small amount of Microscale setting solutions. To bring out the details, I applied AK-Interactive AK121 'OIF & OEF Wash'. This enamel product was evenly distributed over all surfaces.


BANDA ŁYSEGO

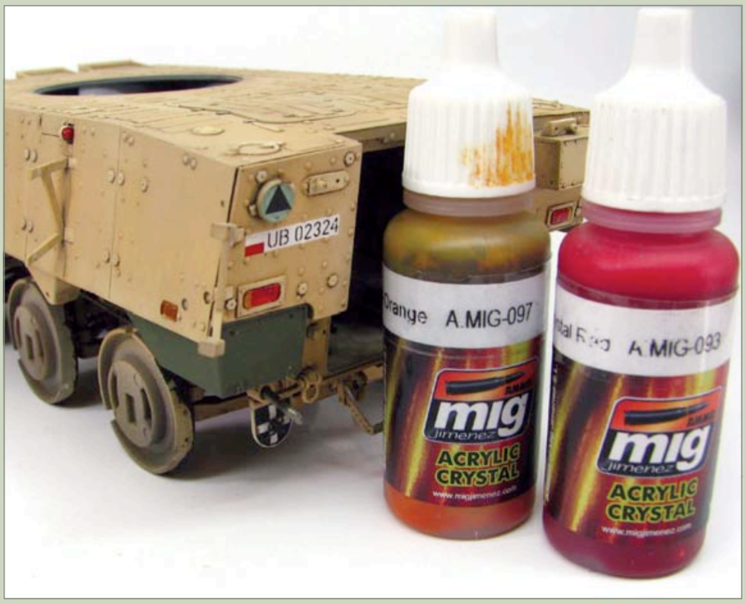
Before it had fully dried, I removed the excess using dry cotton buds.

Once the enamel had fully dried, I sealed the entire model with a layer of matte varnish.


BANDA
ŁYSEGO



Now I could attach the sidelights and reflective lights. If I had done this earlier, I would've encountered some laborious masking.

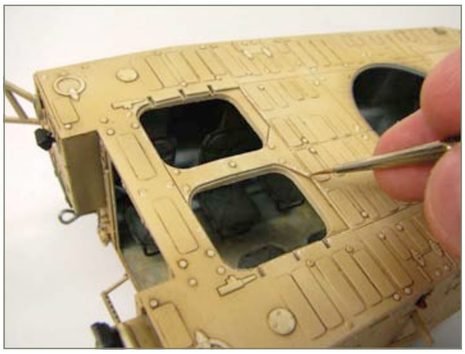

UB 02324
Orange A.MIG-097
mig jimenez
ACRYLIC CRYSTAL
tal Red A.MIG-093
mig jimenez
ACRYLIC CRYSTAL

The clear parts had been painted in silver from the inside before gluing them in place. Therefore, I had to paint their outer sides with red and orange clear colours, respectively. In this case, I used 'Crystal Colors' from Ammo-MIG.

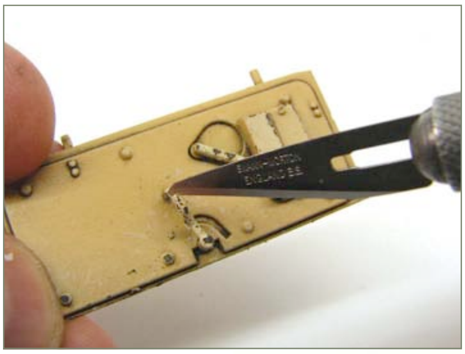
Weathering

Despite their heavy use, the Rosomaks of the Polish contingent in Afghanistan appear to be rather well maintained according to my reference pictures. I therefore had to be subtle in recreating such effects as paint chipping. In case of the latter, I also had to bear in mind that the add-on armour of this vehicle is made from composite materials, so deep scratches down to bare metal could be added in a few areas only.

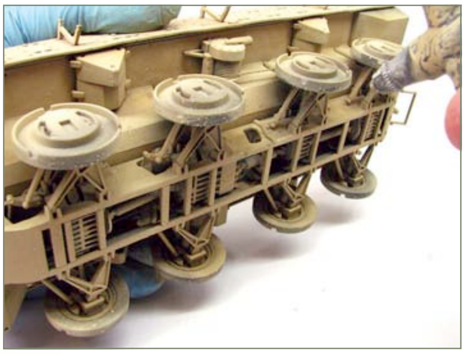
Fortunately, many photos show large amounts of mud and dust collected on the lower hull areas, giving plenty of room to play with various products and techniques.



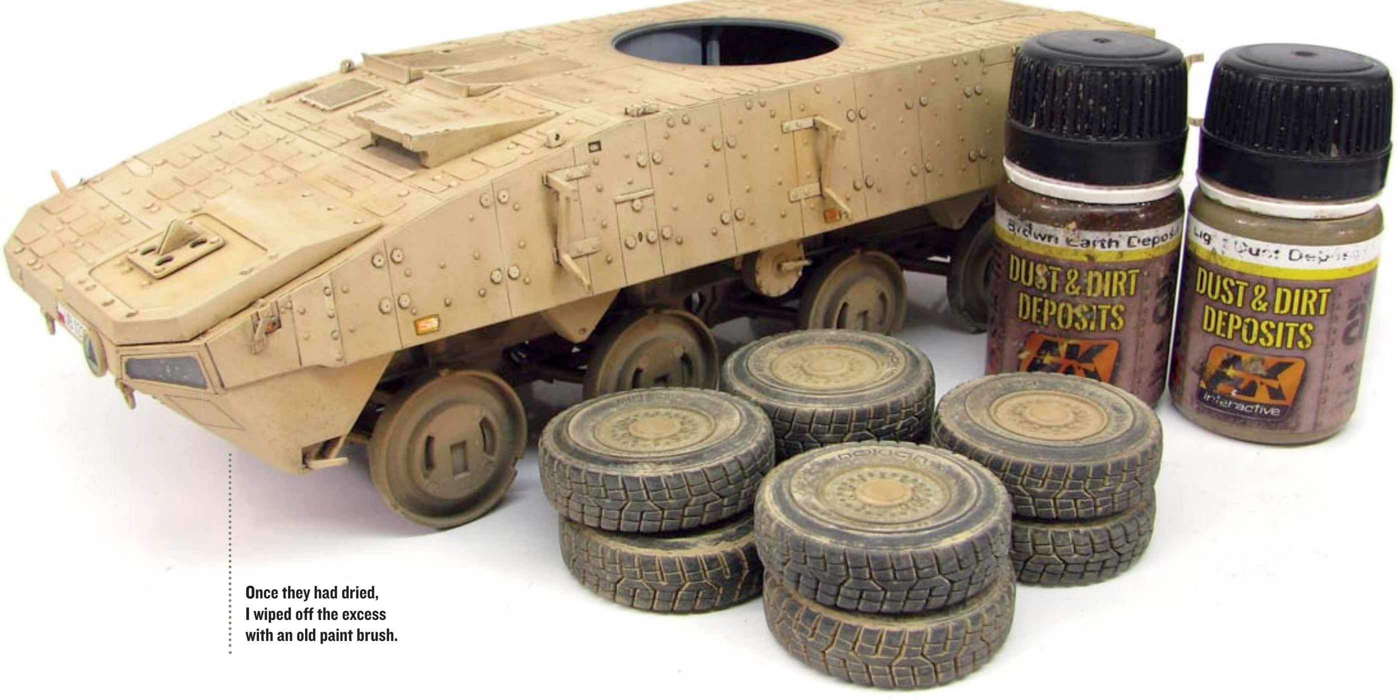
My first step was to brush paint some fine scratches around the hatches and over other details that would be vulnerable to damage on the real vehicle. For this task, I used Vallejo 70883 'Silver Grey', quite heavily thinned.



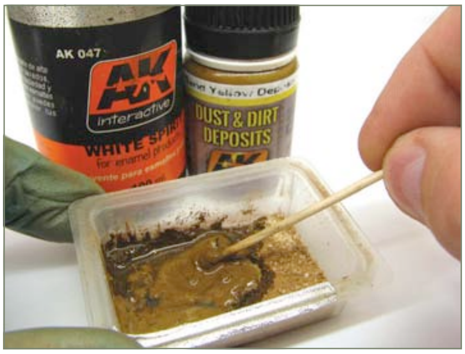
The only heavy damage to the paint layer could be added to the troop compartment door area. This was achieved by scratching the sand yellow basecoat with a blunt scalpel edge, in order to reveal the red brown undercoat.



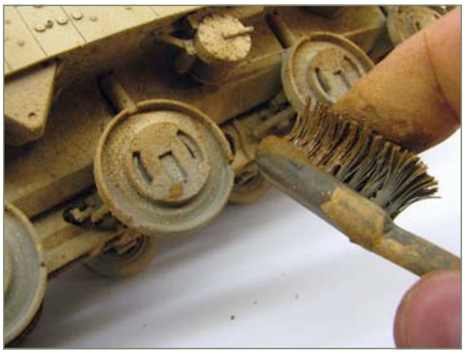
The process of dirtying the lower surfaces was started by airbrushing two enamel products from AK-Interactive's 'Deposit' range, ie. AK4062 'Light Dust Deposit' and AK4063 'Brown Earth Deposit'.



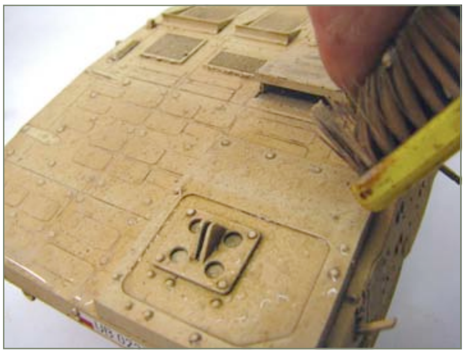
Once they had dried, I wiped off the excess with an old paint brush.



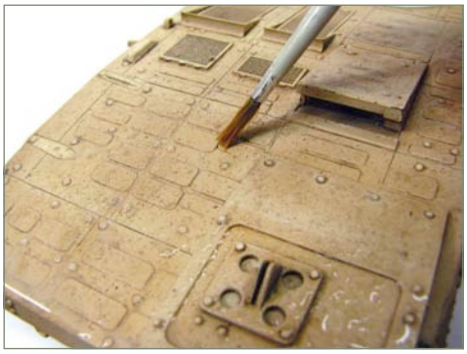
To create the structured mud texture, I firstly had to mix together a few different pigments and some plaster. The mixture was then poured with some white spirit and a small amount of AK-Interactive AK4061 'Sand Yellow Deposit'.



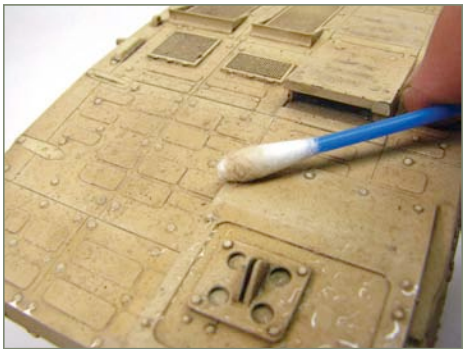
Now, I flicked this over the kit's lower areas, using a toothbrush. The mud texture had to be retouched here and there after mounting the wheels.



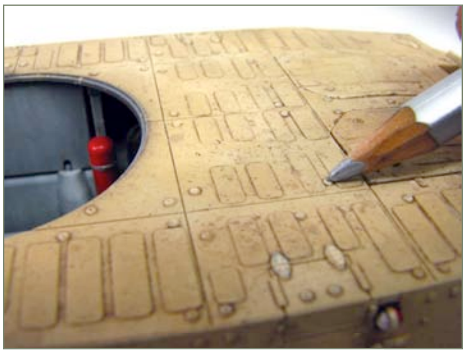
As the upper surfaces of the hull demanded a rather restrained treatment, for this task I decided to use three 'Weathering Sticks' from the Tamiya range: 'Sand', 'Light Earth' and 'Mud'. These compounds were mixed with tap water, and subsequently speckled over the surfaces that had been previously dampened with Lifecolor's acrylic thinner.



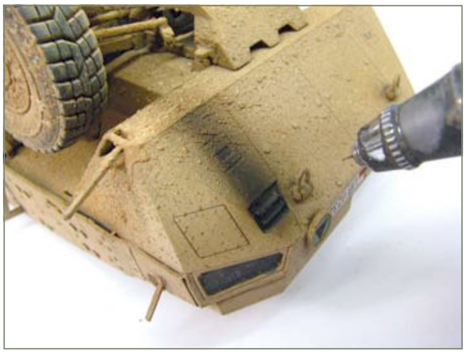
Next, I quickly distributed the mixture over the surface with a wet brush, in order to break those tiny drops of compound that were too distinct, and re-arrange their placement in a more random manner.



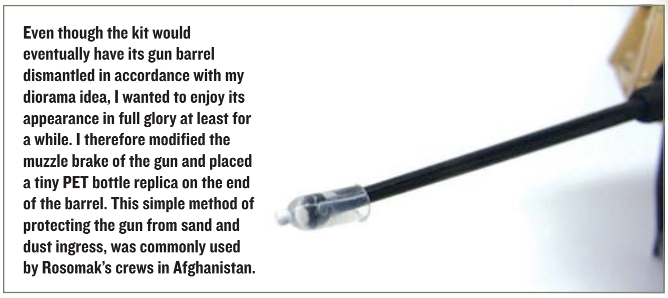
I also removed the excess compound from some areas by rolling a dry cotton bud over the surface.



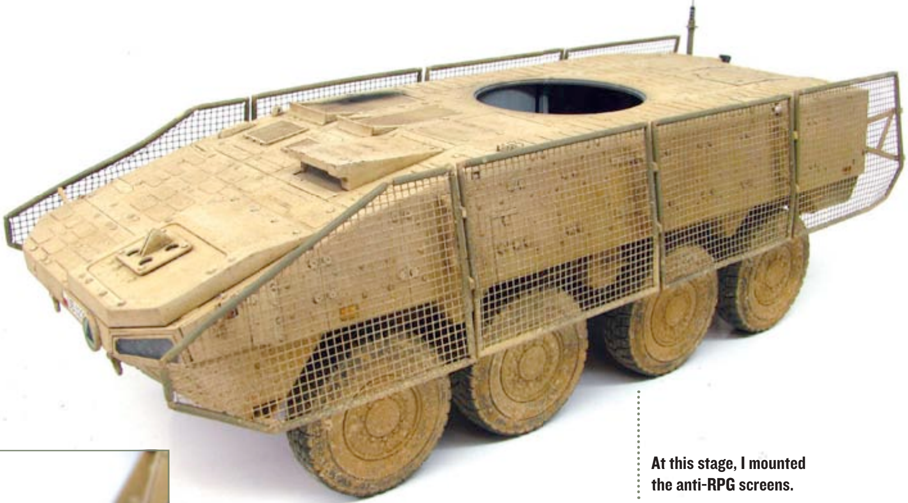
A few deep scratches down to bare metal, were added to the steel fittings of the add-on armour, using a silver watercolour pencil.



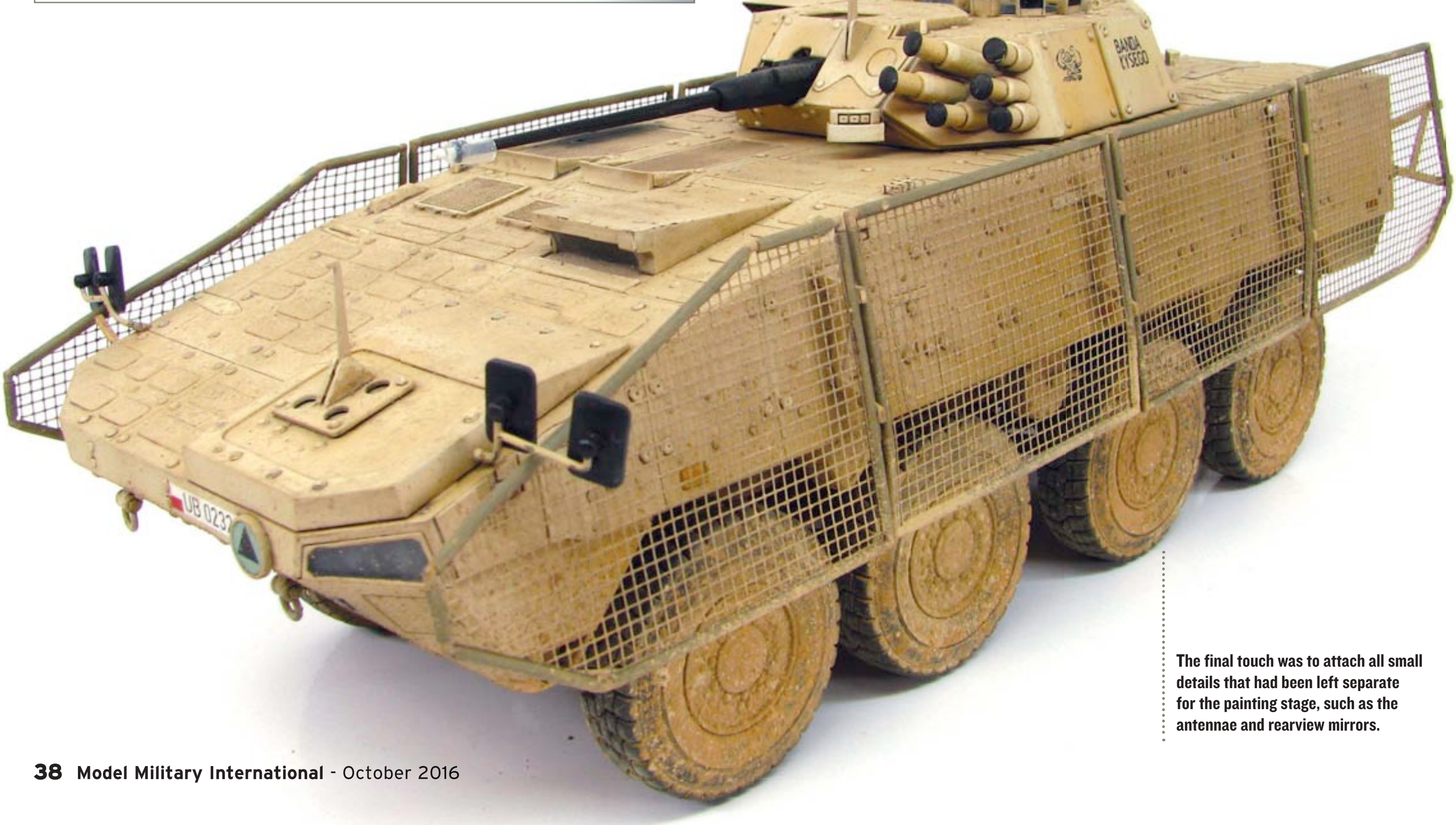
Afterwards, I mixed AK-Interactive AK084 'Engine Oil' with white spirit, and recreated a stain running from under the winch rollers.



Even though the kit would eventually have its gun barrel dismantled in accordance with my diorama idea, I wanted to enjoy its appearance in full glory at least for a while. I therefore modified the muzzle brake of the gun and placed a tiny PET bottle replica on the end of the barrel. This simple method of protecting the gun from sand and dust ingress, was commonly used by Rosomak's crews in Afghanistan.



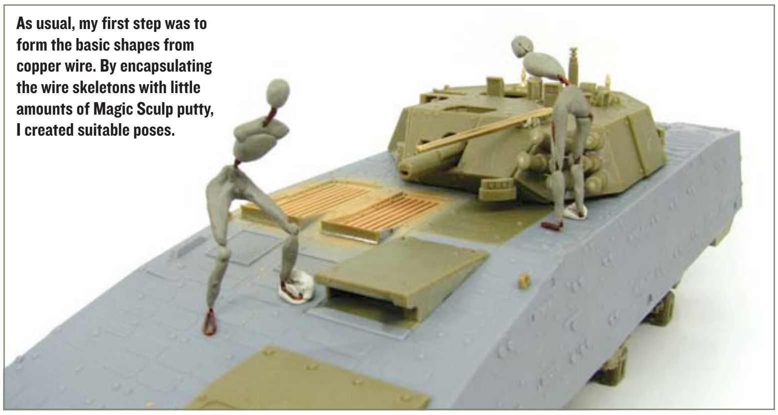
At this stage, I mounted the anti-RPG screens.

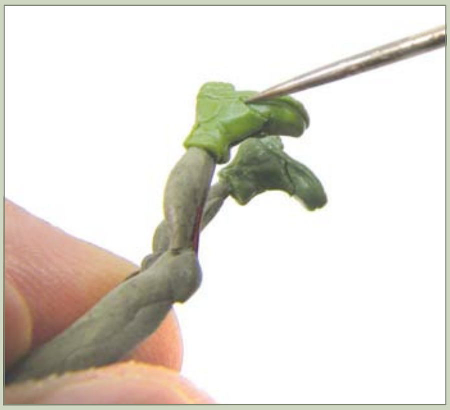


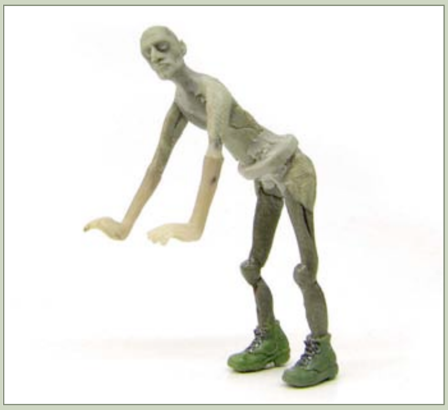
The final touch was to attach all small details that had been left separate for the painting stage, such as the antennae and rearview mirrors.

Figures

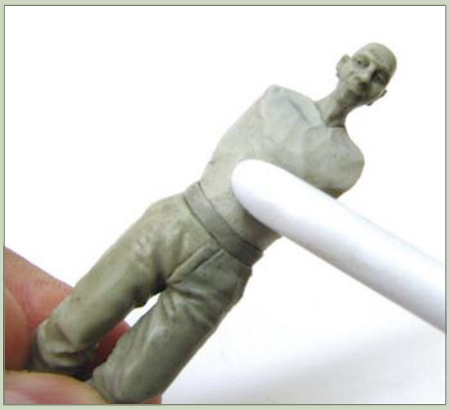
Whilst browsing various photos documenting the life of Polish ISAF forces, I came across a picture that showed two Rosomak crewmen cleaning the gun barrel that had been removed from the mantlet. This seemed to be a nice vignette idea on its own, but inspired by another photo, I decided to add the third soldier, portrayed whilst carrying a tactical vest and an operational bag. This allowed me to depict a few different types of uniform and equipment used by Polish soldiers in Afghanistan.

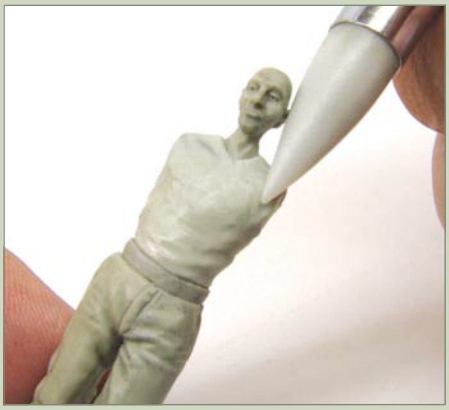

As usual, my first step was to form the basic shapes from copper wire. By encapsulating the wire skeletons with little amounts of Magic Sculp putty, I created suitable poses.

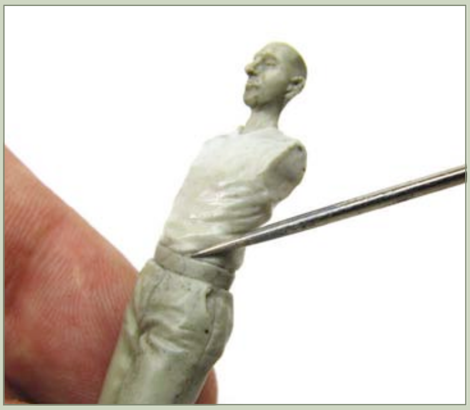

Next, I sculpted the most difficult elements, namely the heads and boots. The latter were made from a mixture of Magic Sculp and Green Stuff and supplemented with laces reproduced from thin lead wire.

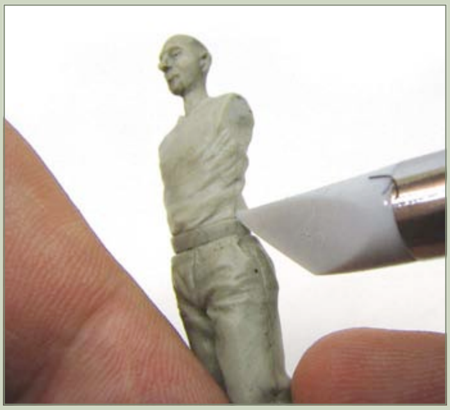

I then proceeded with building up subsequent parts of the bodies, and uniforms...

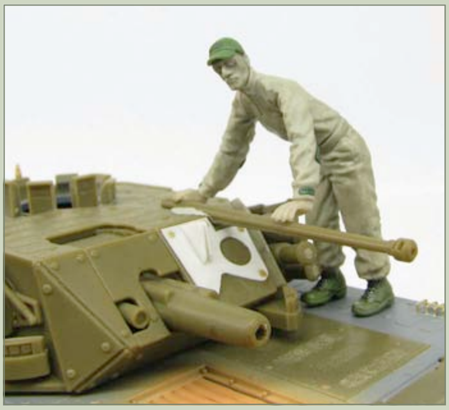
...which were all created in a similar way. I began by applying a suitable amount of putty...


...and forming the base shape of the particular body/uniform part with a DIY tool.


To add the larger folds, I used a pointed rubber brush...


...whilst the smaller folds and details were shaped with a thick sewing needle.


Before the putty had fully dried, I replicated the stitching, using a sharp-edged rubber brush.


The most time-consuming task was to ensure the proper alignment of the figures, vehicle and barrel. This required careful test-fitting after each step of the sculpting process.

At this stage, I had to add the barrel section that is hidden within the mantlet.

Creating the tactical vest also took a significant amount of time. Various straps were made both from epoxy putty and thin masking tape, that was eventually fixed with cyano.

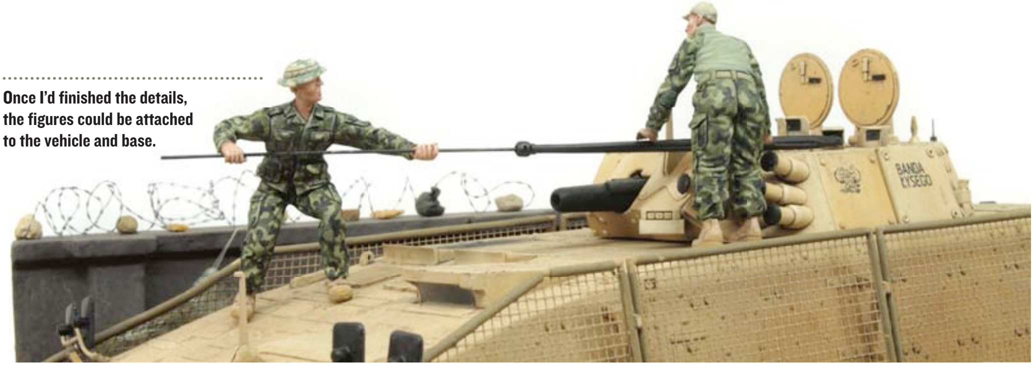
The finished figures were cast in resin.

The painting process was begun by finishing the heads and hands. For this purpose, I used various acrylic colours from **AK-Interactive AK3010** 'Flesh and Skintones' set.

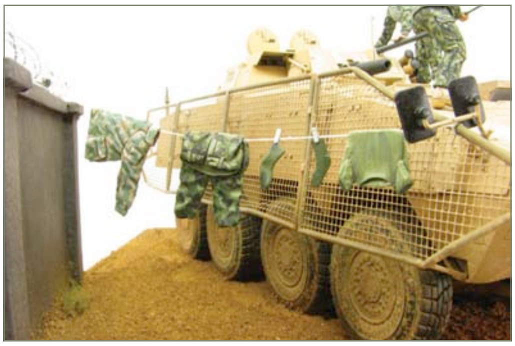
Next, I applied the lightest tone of the uniform's camouflage patterns, and subsequently added the highlights and shadows.

Afterwards, I painted the remaining camouflage patches.

Once I'd finished the details, the figures could be attached to the vehicle and base.



Uniform parts were painted together with figures...



...and strung on a length of elastic thread. I then hung the resulting clothes line between the wall and vehicle.

The traces of water dripping from the drying clothes were reproduced with AK-Interactive AK079 'Wet Effects Fluid'.

Modelspec

IBG Models 1:35 KTO Rosomak "Green Devil"
Kit No. 35032

Accessories Used:

RB Model 1:35 scale Aerial Mounts for Modern Military Vehicles set - Set #RB35A13
E.T. Model 1:35 scale Modern U.S. Vehicle Anti IED Device set - Set #E35-140
ToRo Model 1:35 scale KTO Rosomak vol.2 decals - Set #35D37
ToRo Model 1:35 scale Polish Army in Afghanistan 2011 "Rosomak Crewmen cleaning barrel" (two figures) - Set #35F84
ToRo Model 1:35 scale Polish Army in Afghanistan 2011 "Arrival to camp" (one figure) - Set #35F83
Eduard 1:35 scale Barbed Wire Razor II (8m) - Set #35640

Tools and Modelling Products:

Tamiya Extra Thin Cement, Roket Hot C.A. Adhesive, Styrene Rod & Strip, Copper & Lead Wires, Scratch Brush, Rubber Brushes, Sewing Needle, Tamiya Masking Tape, Duro (Green Stuff) Epoxy Putty, Magic Sculpt Epoxy Putty, Balsa Wood, Styrodur Foam, Foam Board, Tile Adhesive, Vallejo Acrylic Pastes

Paints and Finishing Products:

Paints: AK-Interactive, Ammo of Mig Jimenez, Lifecolor, Mr.Hobby, Tamiya (acrylic), Vallejo.
Mr.Hobby Clear Varnishes.
Tamiya Weathering Sticks: 87081 Mud, 87086 Sand, 87087 Light Earth.
MIG Productions P249 Pigment Fixer.
AK-Interactive weathering products:

- AK045 Dark Brown Wash for Green Vehicles
- AK079 Wet Effects Fluid
- AK084 Engine Oil
- AK121 OIF & OEF Wash
- AK174 Photo-Etch Burnishing Fluid
- AK2033 Aircraft Engine & Turbines Wash
- AK2072 Paneliner for Grey and Blue Camouflage
- AK4061 Sand Yellow Deposit
- AK4062 Light Dust Deposit
- AK4063 Brown Earth Deposit

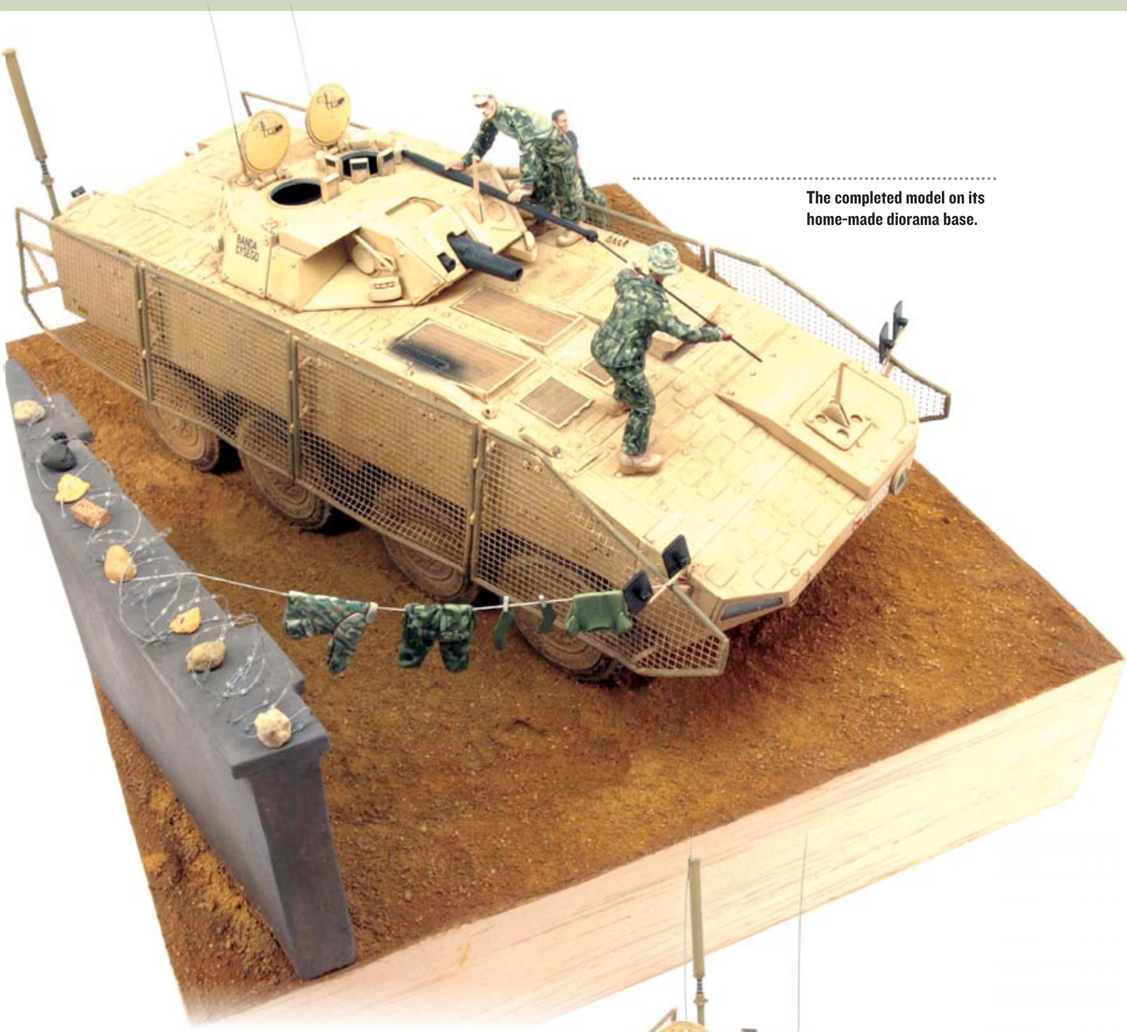
✓ Fine surface detail; high level of detail including interior.

✗ Restrained anti-slip texture (due to be fixed before release).

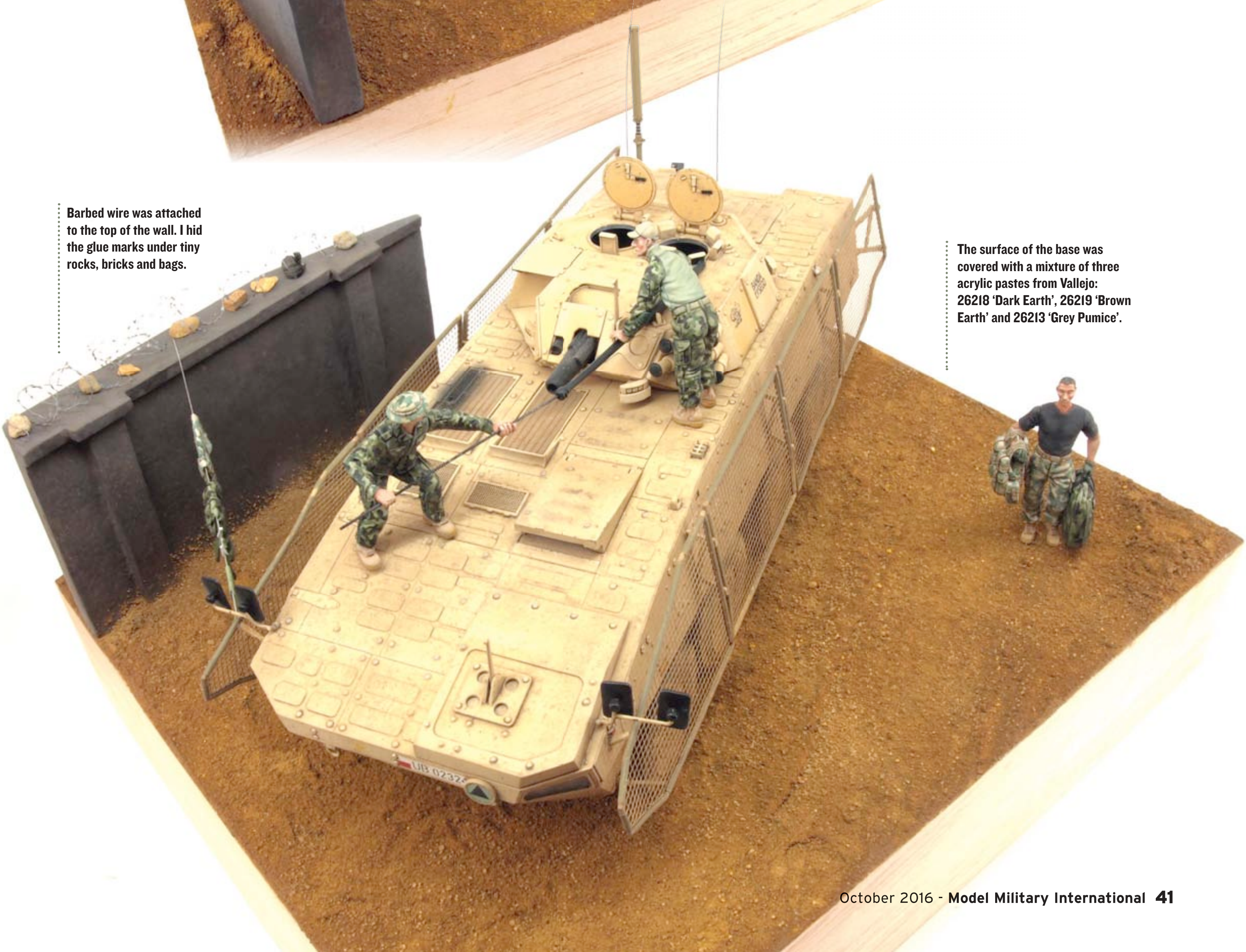
Available from

Thanks to IBG Models for the test shot www.ibg.com.pl

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



The completed model on its home-made diorama base.



Barbed wire was attached to the top of the wall. I hid the glue marks under tiny rocks, bricks and bags.

The surface of the base was covered with a mixture of three acrylic pastes from Vallejo: 26218 'Dark Earth', 26219 'Brown Earth' and 26213 'Grey Pumice'.

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- 1 x Chiselling blade #17

Blades to fit the #2 & #5 handle
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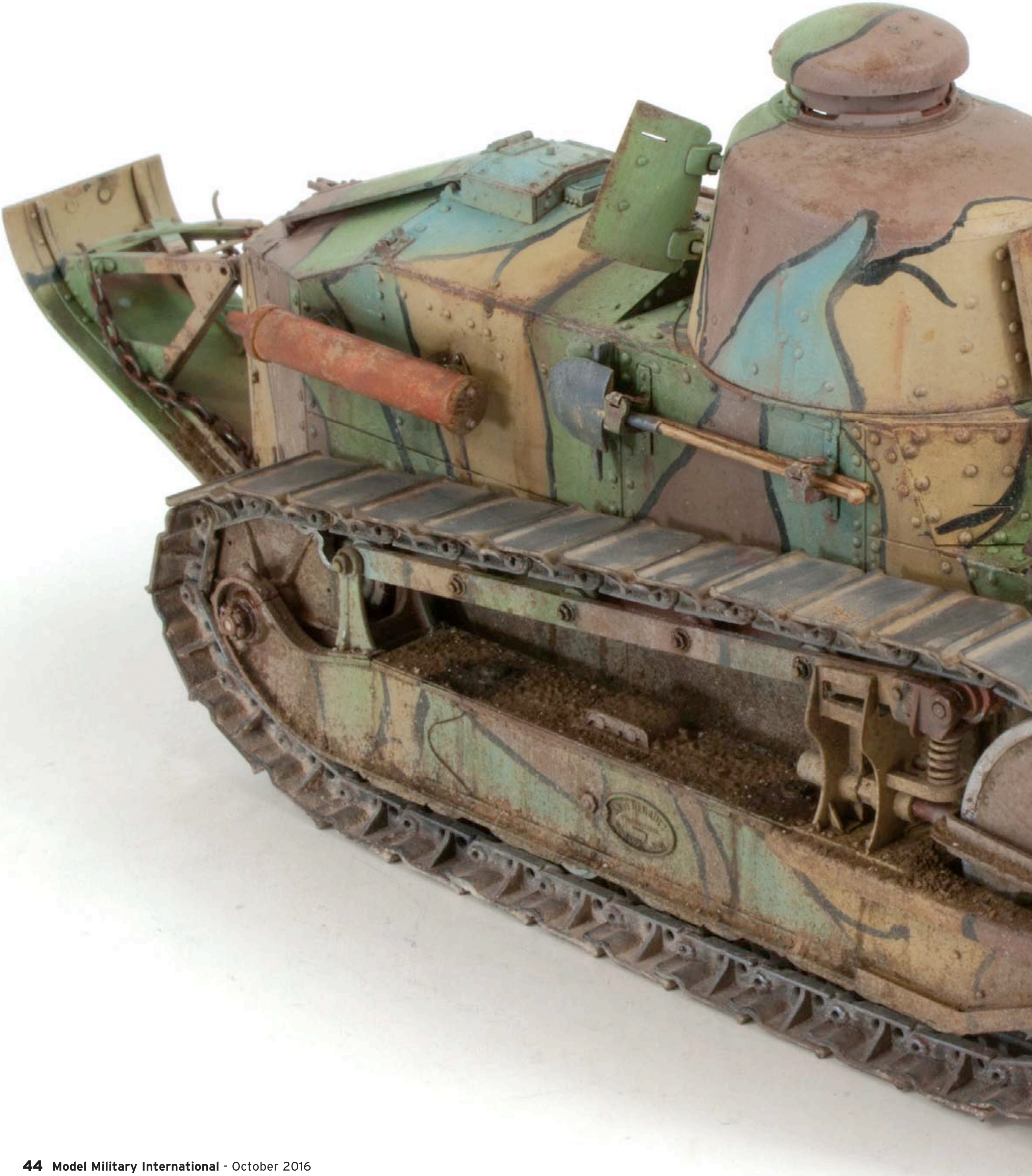


RERUNNER

Konrad Dzik builds, paints and weathers Meng Model's 1:35 scale Renault FT, the forerunner of modern tanks.

> **“It can be argued that the Renault FT was in fact the first standard tank design thanks to its rear-mounted engine, forward crew cab and main armament located in its fully rotating turret...”**

Although the honour of the world's first tank is usually bestowed upon the British Mark I, it can be argued that the Renault FT was in fact the first standard tank design thanks to its rear-mounted engine, forward crew cab and main armament located in its fully rotating turret.

Design work commenced on the Renault FT in 1916. The FT was an innovative concept and clearly more advanced than its French competition, the Schneider CA1 and the heavy Saint-Chamond, but disagreements about the practicality and usefulness of light tanks compared to heavy tanks meant that it was not ordered into production until April 1917.

The early production version of the FT was fitted with a riveted turret that suffered from poor ballistic properties, a complex manufacturing process and the inability to fully rotate, but a later hybrid welded / riveted turret addressed these problems.

Only 84 FT tanks were produced in 1917, but by the end of the war up to 4,000 had been delivered. The French Army and the American Expeditionary Forces used the Renault FT widely and to great effect in the later months of the First World War.

Production continued post-war, with the FT being exported to a large number of countries.

By 1940, the French Army still had eight Battalions equipped with 63 Renault FTs each, and three Companies with 10 each. All of these were equipped with machine guns. These were joined by additional units also equipped with the FT, hastily formed in response to the German Blitzkrieg.

The FT soldiered on beyond the Battle of France, with the Germans capturing 1,704 examples and using some of these as late as 1944 during street fighting in Paris.

MENG
FRENCH FT-17
Light Tank (Cast Turret)
WWW.MENG-MODEL.COM
1/35 SCALE

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Until now, the Renault FT has not been served well by the mainstream model industry, especially considering its essential niche in armour history. The only 1:35 scale injection-moulded FT tank was released by RPM from the 1990s. This was an accurate kit, but moulding was crude with big sprue attachments and by most accounts construction was challenging, to say the least. Its greatest drawback, however, was its stiff full-length tracks.

Meng Model finally released a 1:35 scale Renault FT back in 2013 that was worthy of this landmark vehicle.

Meng's Renault FT comprises 340 parts in tan coloured plastic, 68 pieces in black plastic, one photo-etched fret, two cast metal parts, four springs, 2 steel rods and a decal sheet with four marking options.

Moulding is typical of Meng's high standards. Detail is moulded on to both sides of many parts. Raised and recessed surface features are really well done, but I particularly like the substantial domed rivet heads – a key feature of the FT's hull. The cast texture on the turret is very well done too.

A full interior is provided – fighting compartment, turret and engine – with separate hatches that may be posed open to access all that lovely detail. These are more than basic shapes. The interior is comprehensively fitted out, and alternative stowage parts are offered for the different armament.

The hull is supplied as a flat pack, which will actually make painting, weathering and detailing the interior parts easier than a conventional hull tub.

The running gear is partly supported by two workable metal Vertical Spring Suspension units – quite nifty.

The suspension units and wheels are well detailed. I particularly like the raised casting marks on the outer running gear covers. Optional idler wheel covers are supplied. One is depicted as metal, and the other as timber.

The workable track links are supplied as one part each, with only 32 links on each side, but still providing good detail including the lightening holes. The links are simply pressed together without glue. There is a small raised ejector pin blemish on the outside centre of each link, but a few seconds with a sanding stick will eliminate these.

Markings are supplied for four options.

The three turret armament choices are an 8mm Hotchkiss machine gun, 7.5mm Reibel machine gun or the 37mm Puteaux SA18 cannon. The machine guns are beautifully detailed.

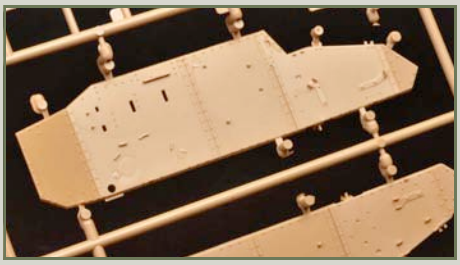
If you are not using the Hotchkiss machine gun on the turret, Meng has provided a tripod, ammunition box and ammo belt for separate display.

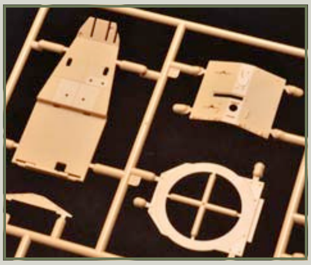
A modest photo-etched fret supplies the Commander's strap (seat) and some smaller details.

Markings are offered for four options:

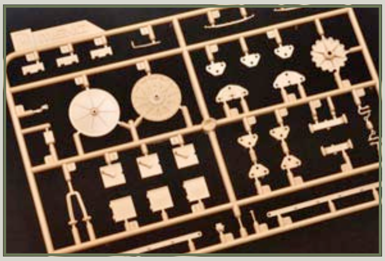
- French Army, 4th Platoon, 1st Company, 29th Tank Batallion, May 1940
- French Army, 1st Company, 2nd Batallion, "Le Tigre" Regiment, WWI
- Finnish Army, 2nd Tank Company, February 1940
- Luftwaffe in France, Summer 1940

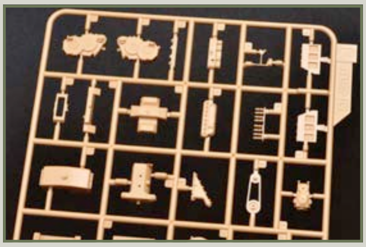
The 22-page instruction booklet is logically laid out and clearly illustrated with useful multi-lingual captions were required. Paint callouts are by Vallejo number only. It would have been nice for these to include a generic colour callout too.

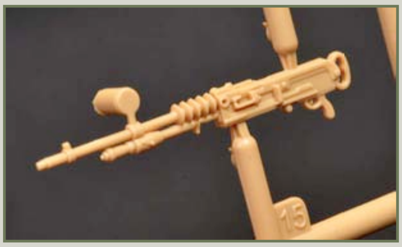

The hull is supplied is separate panels for the sides, front, rear, top and bottom.

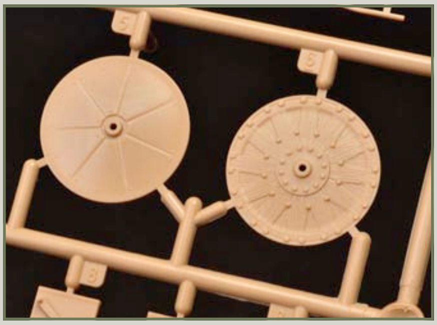

Treadplate pattern on the fighting compartment floor.

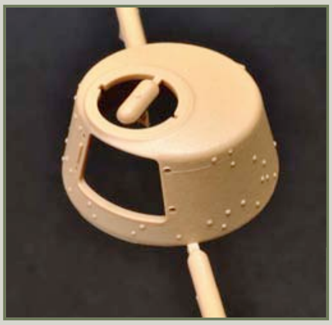
The kit is beautifully moulded and includes many delicate details.

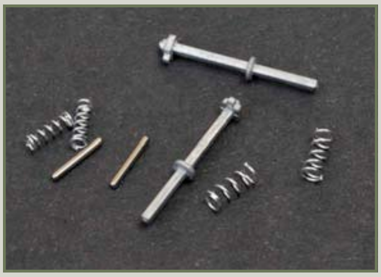

Running gear and detail parts.


Engine detail is included.


The lovely 8mm Hotchkiss gun.

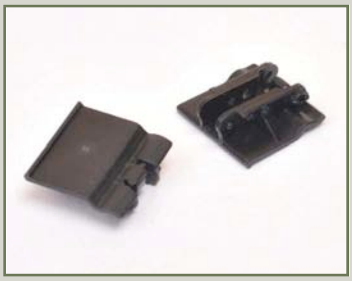

Alternative wooden and metal idler wheels.


The one-piece turret dome represents the cast version.


The Vertical Spring Suspension units are workable too.

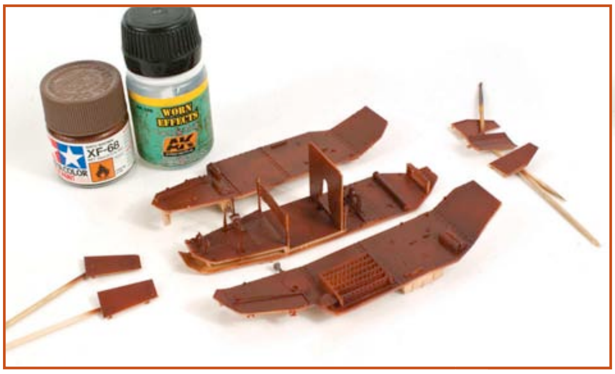
The kit includes a modest photo-etched fret.

There are only 32 track links per side.

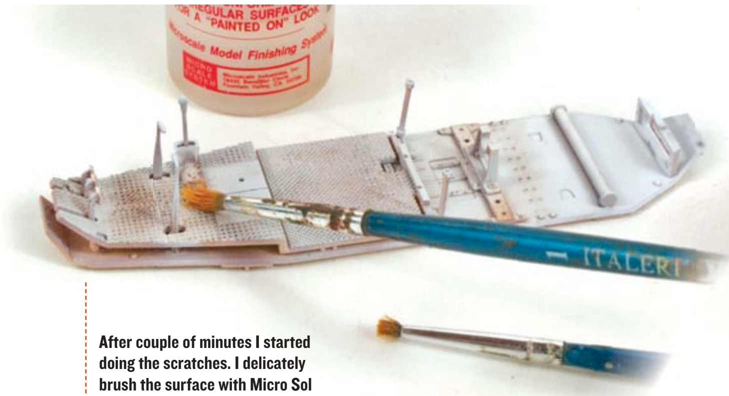

The individual links click together and are fully workable.

INTERIOR AND CONSTRUCTION

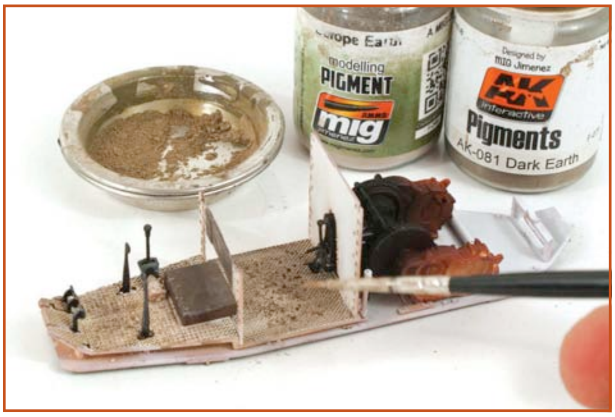
The Meng FT-17 comes with a full interior, so I decided to build the model with most of the hatches open to display all that lovely detail.



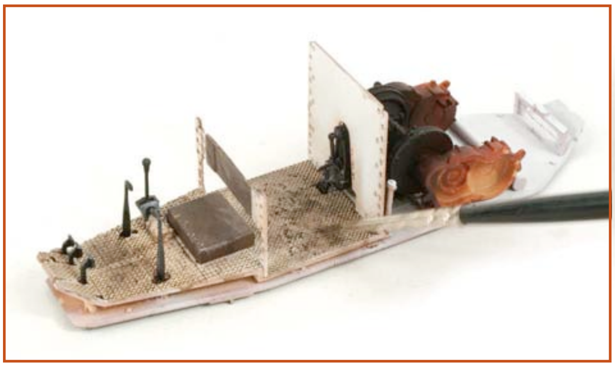
I started by painting the interior with a base coat of Tamiya XF-68 NATO Brown. This would be visible when scratches were made on the floor. When dry I applied two layers of AK Interactive's Worn Effects fluid.



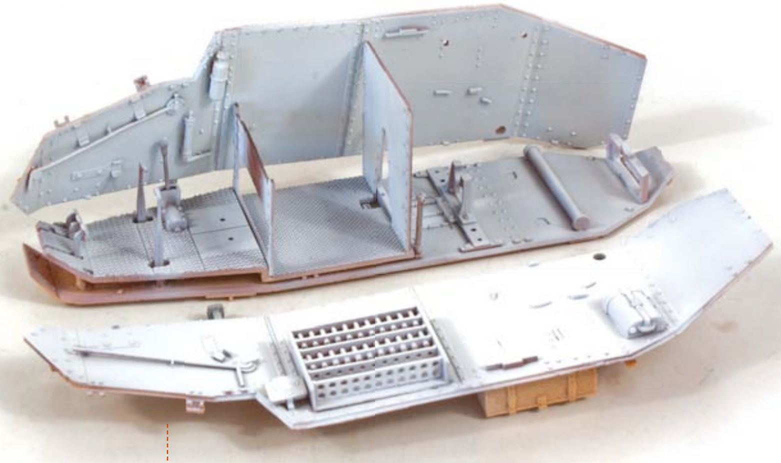
After couple of minutes I started doing the scratches. I delicately brush the surface with Micro Sol to loosen the acrylic white coat.



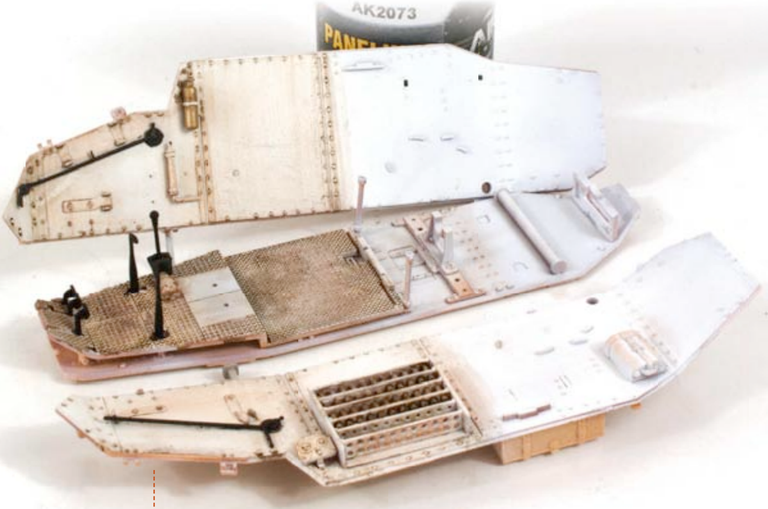
To complete the interior I added dust. Firstly I spilt a some pigments (a mix of European Earth A.MIG-3004 and Dark Earth AK081)...



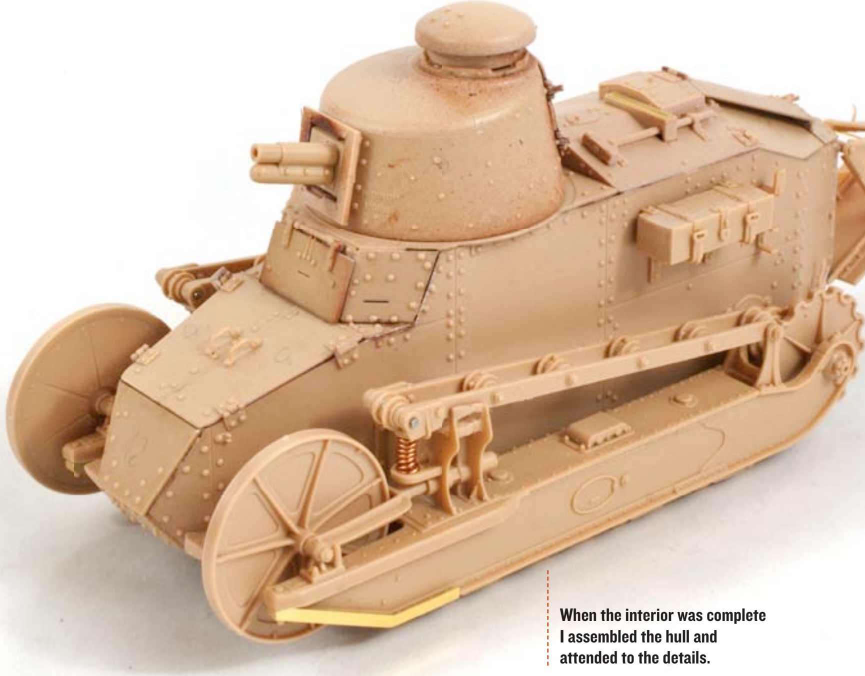
...and then blended it with Tamiya Thinner for Enamel (X-20).



With the sub-colour in place, I overpainted the interior with Tamiya XF-2 White, diluted with water.

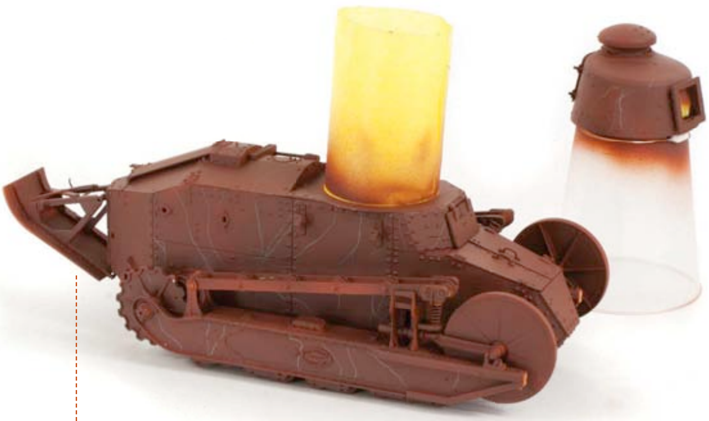


Next, I painted details with Vallejo acrylics and washed it with AK Panel Liner for sand and desert camouflage (AK2073).

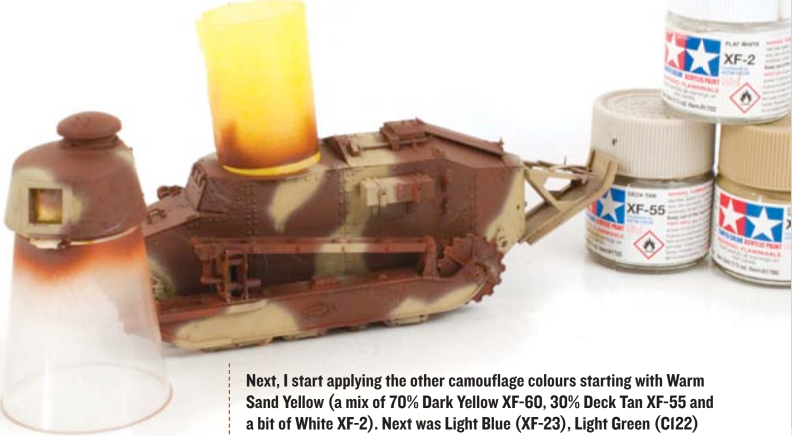


When the interior was complete I assembled the hull and attended to the details.

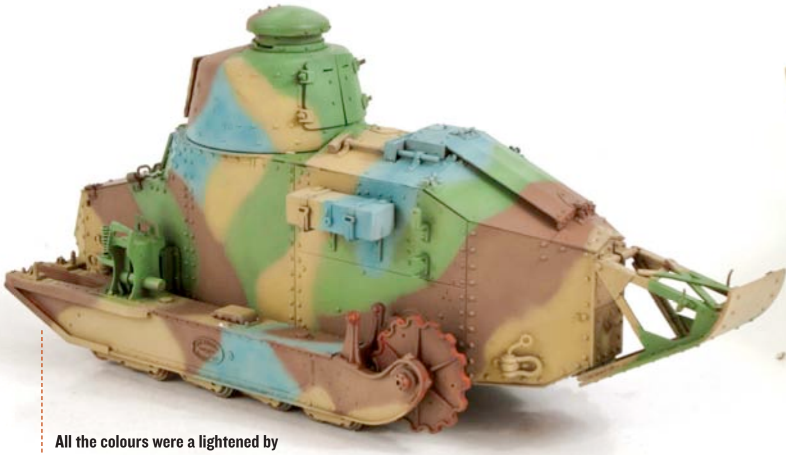
PAINTING



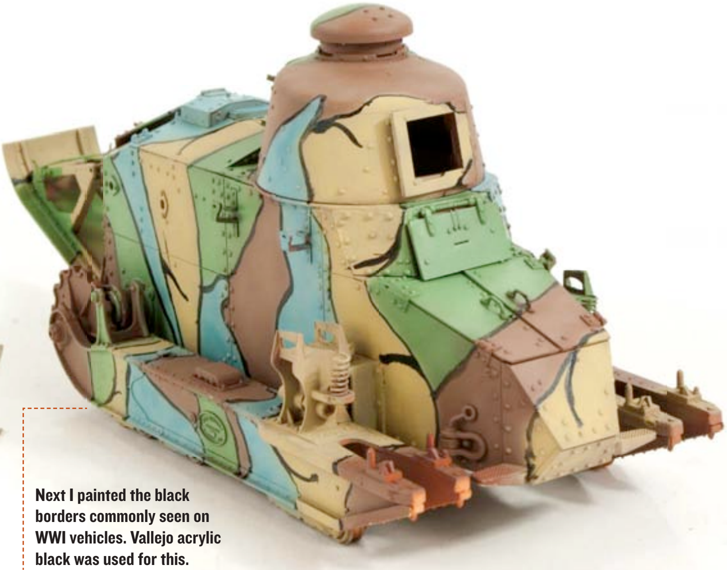
The paint job started with a primer coat of Tamiya XF-68 NATO Brown. I drew the borders of the other camouflage colours onto this base coat using a pencil.



Next, I start applying the other camouflage colours starting with Warm Sand Yellow (a mix of 70% Dark Yellow XF-60, 30% Deck Tan XF-55 and a bit of White XF-2). Next was Light Blue (XF-23), Light Green (C122) and Flat Earth (XF-52) with some XF-79.



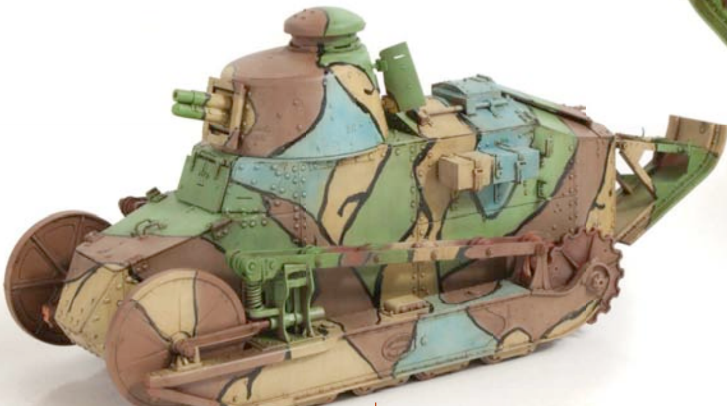
All the colours were a lightened by adding a bit of Tamiya XF-55 Deck Tan.



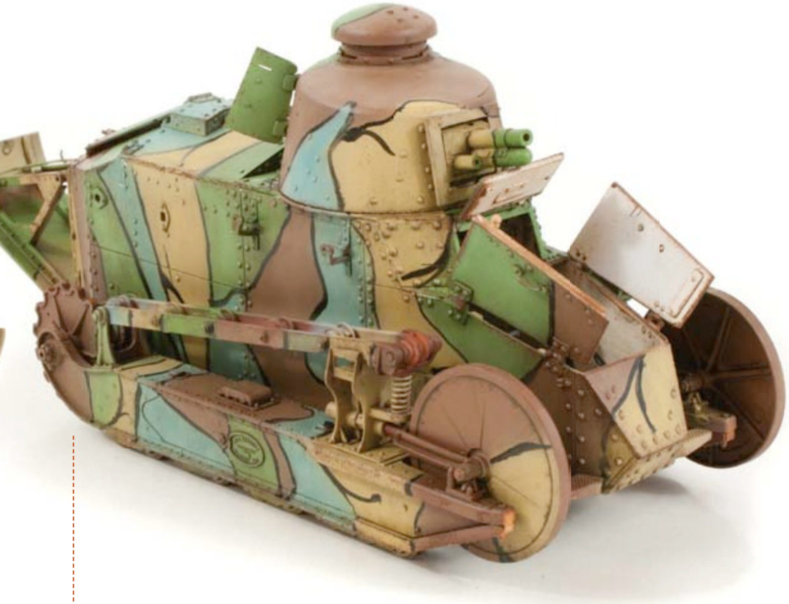
Next I painted the black borders commonly seen on WWI vehicles. Vallejo acrylic black was used for this.

WEATHERING

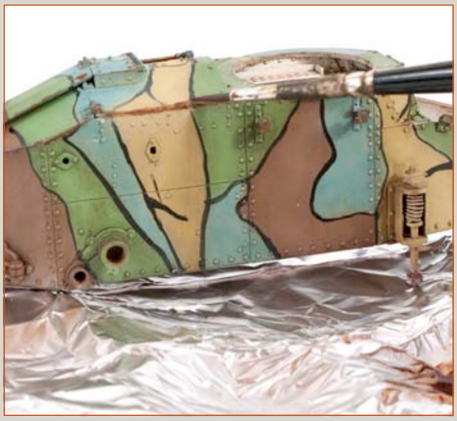
When the painting was complete I could start the weathering. As always the wash came first. I used the same as for the interior - AK Panel Liner for sand and desert camouflage (AK2073). After the wash I also painted details including the shovel. I painted it with an initial mix of Dunkelgelb (A.MIG-011) and Khaki (70988).



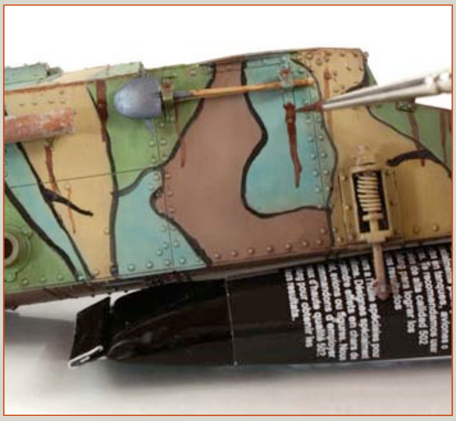
I applied some Brown Oil Wash (Abt080.) and blended it. Metal parts were painted with Dark Iron (MC-212)



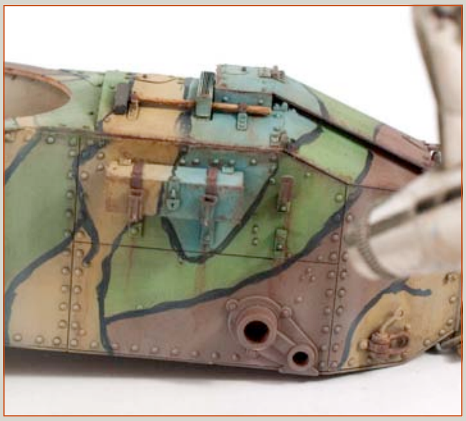
Next step was some chipping, I didn't want to overdo it so I only applied a few near the edges. I used a sponge and Lifecolor Rust Dark Shadow (UA701). When you are doing chipping with a sponge it is a good idea to dilute the paint a bit and blot the excess on paper before applying it to the model.



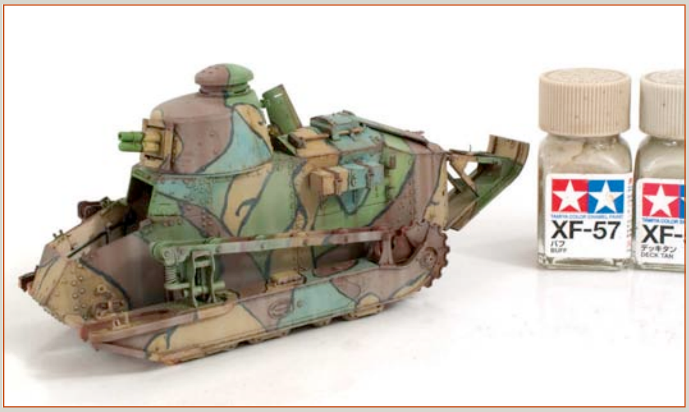
Rust was added over the biggest chips. I used diluted AK Interactive's Rust Streaks (AK013) with Tamiya X-20 thinner. First it was applied over the chips and, after couple of minutes, blended with thinner.



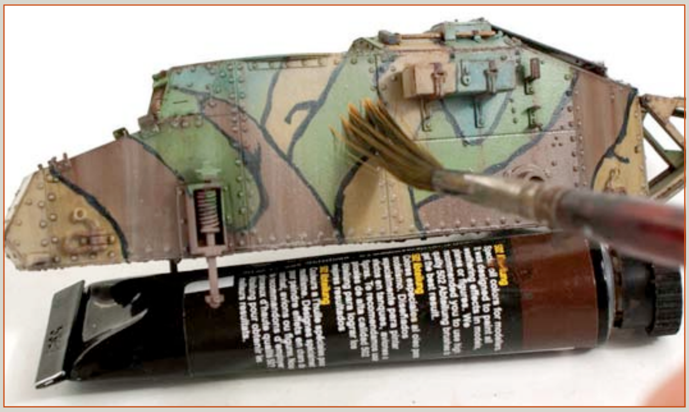
After that I applied few rust streaks using the same technique as above. I painted vertical lines and after couple of minutes blended it with vertical movements of a brush moistened with X-20 thinner.



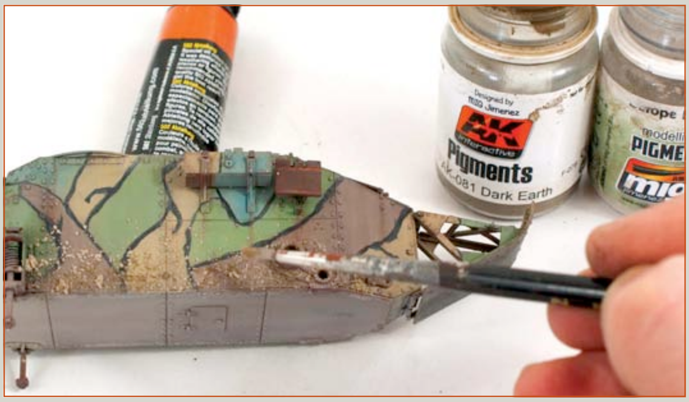
The exhaust was painted with the Lifcolor Rust Set using a sponge. Next I applied some worn effects fluid from AK (088) and base colours that were chipped and scratched later.



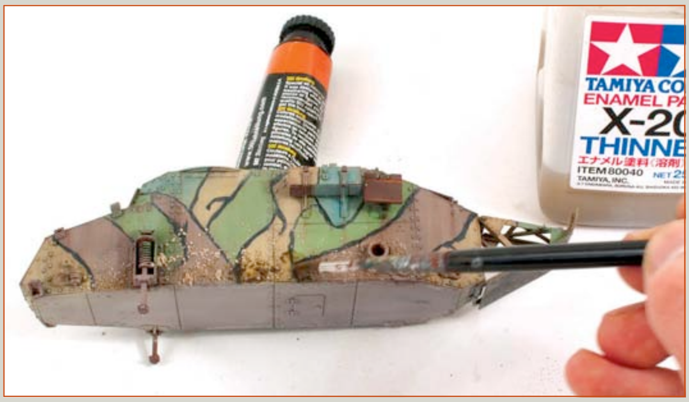
When it was time for dust, I applied heavily thinned mix of Tamiya enamel Deck Tan (XF-55) and Buff (XF-57) from the airbrush.



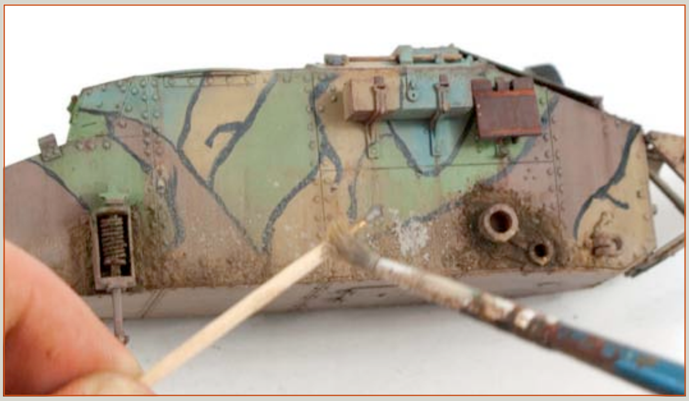
After couple of minutes I start to blended the airbrushed dust with a paintbrush moistened in X-20 with vertical movements. I achieved interesting rain marks using this simple method.



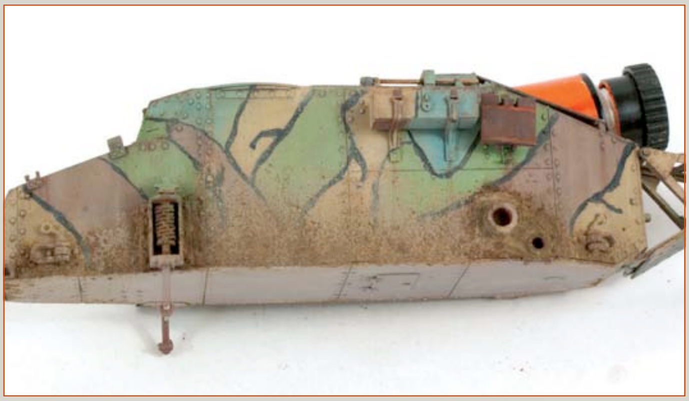
When the dust was finished I start applying the mud. First I added a mix of European Earth (A.MIG-3004) and Dark Earth (AK081) pigments.



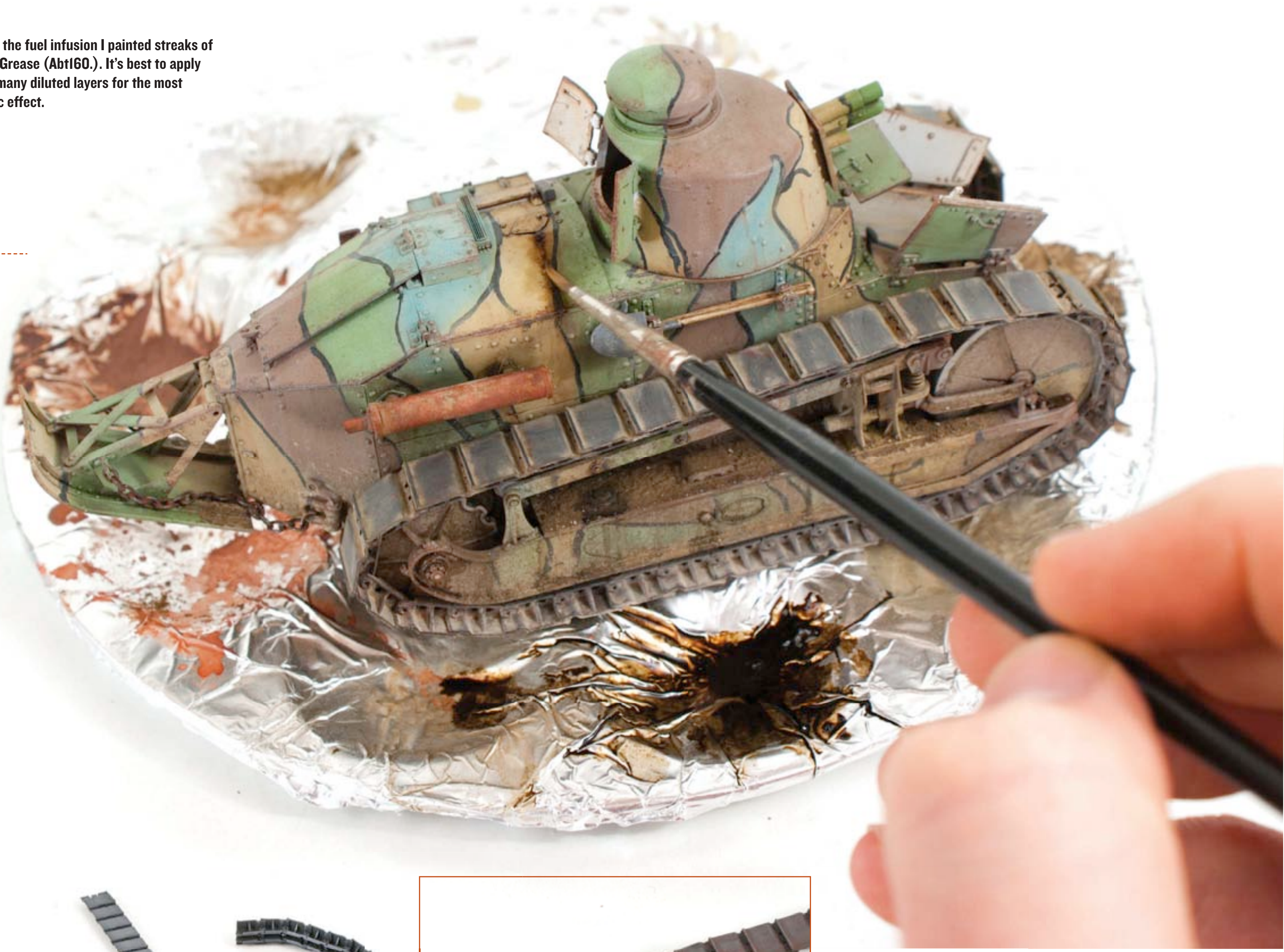
This was later blended with X-20 thinner. On the lowest part and over places where mud and earth naturally accumulate, I spilt darker pigments and fixed them with pigment fixer.



Next, I splashed more mud. I prepared two mixes - one brighter (enamel XF-57 and Europen Earth pigment) and one darker (Enamel XF-52 and Dark Earth pigment). These were spattered from the brush - first the brighter mix then the darker.



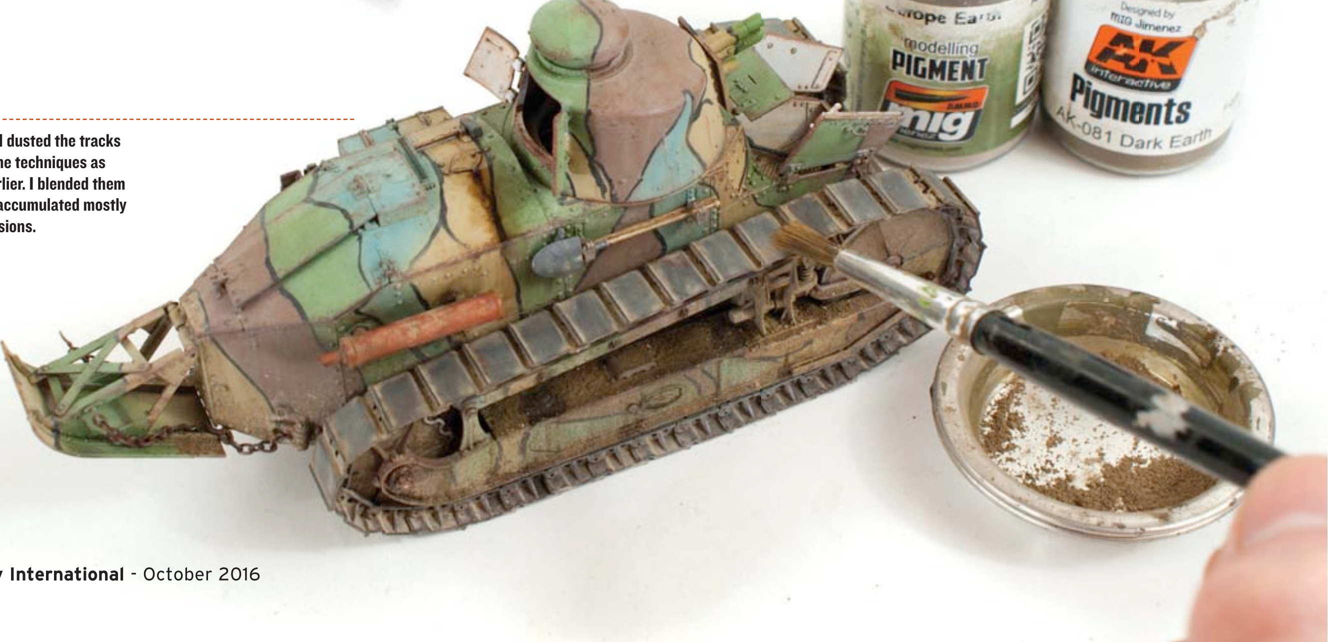
This was followed by a few streaks of diluted Engine Grease (Abt160.)



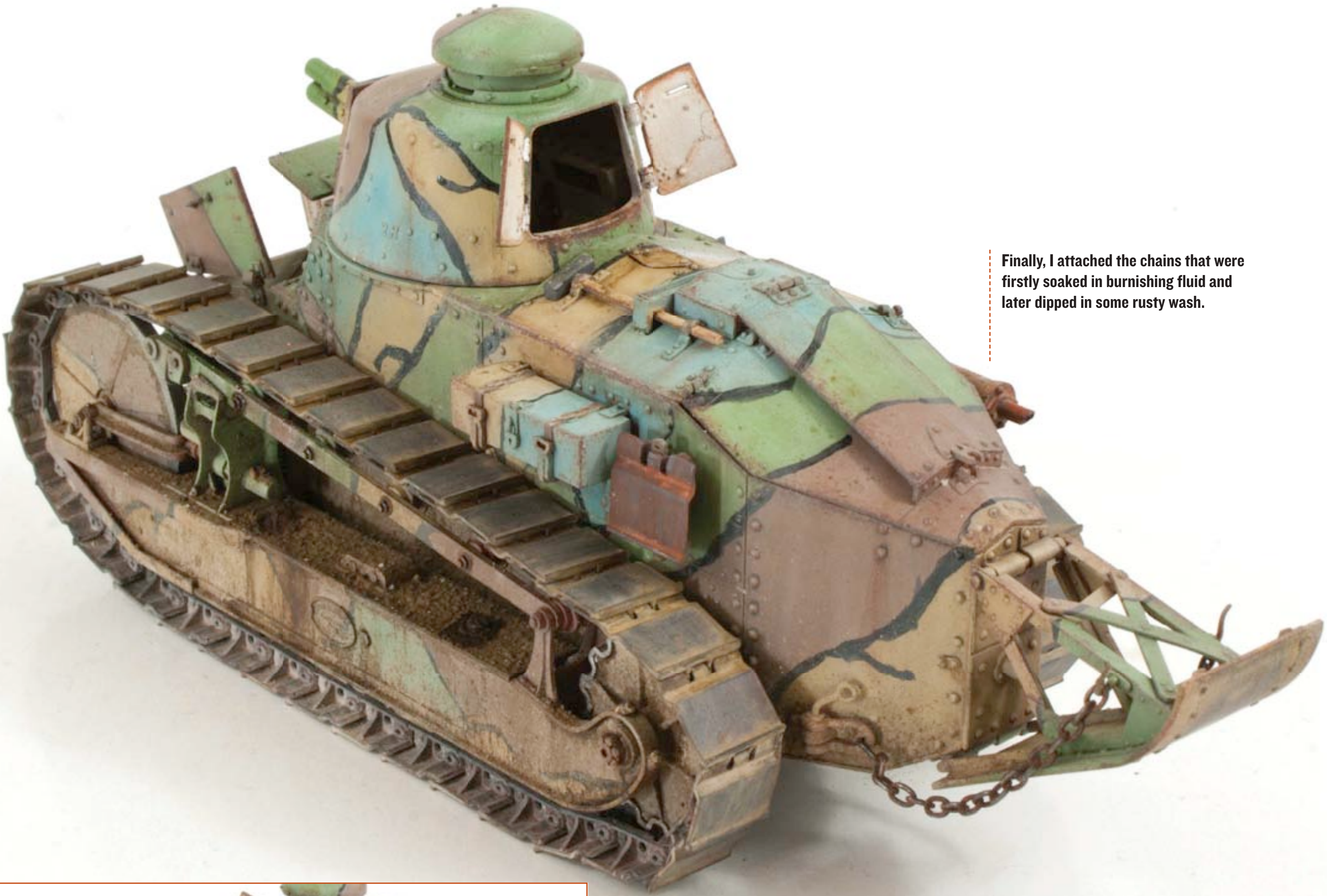
Near to the fuel infusion I painted streaks of Engine Grease (Abt160.). It's best to apply this in many diluted layers for the most realistic effect.

Tracks were firstly painted with Dark Iron (MC-212)

Next I applied some wash using diluted AK Interactive Rust Streaks (AK013) to the upper side, and on the lower side thinned with water Base Rust from Lifecolor (UA702).


A.MIG-3004
Europe Earth
Europe Earth
modelling
PIGMENT
mig
Designed by
MIG Jimenez
AK
interactive
Pigments
AK-081 Dark Earth

At this stage I dusted the tracks using the same techniques as described earlier. I blended them a bit so they accumulated mostly in the depressions.



Finally, I attached the chains that were firstly soaked in burnishing fluid and later dipped in some rusty wash.

Detail view of the completed model.

Mini Modelspec

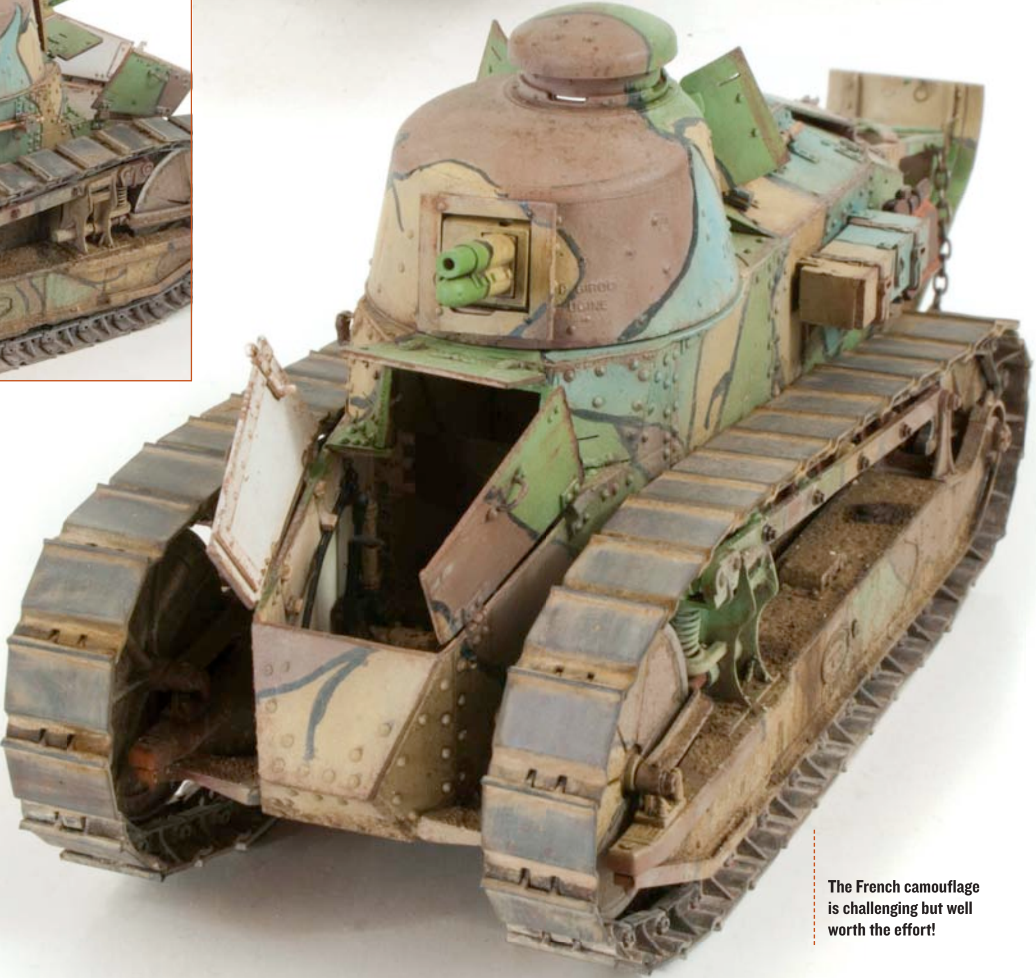
Meng 1:35 French FT-17 Light Tank (Cast Turret)
Kit No.TS008

- ✓ Excellent moulding; high level of detail inside and out; good fit.
- ✗ Nothing worth mentioning.

Available from

Meng Models are available online and from hobby shops worldwide.

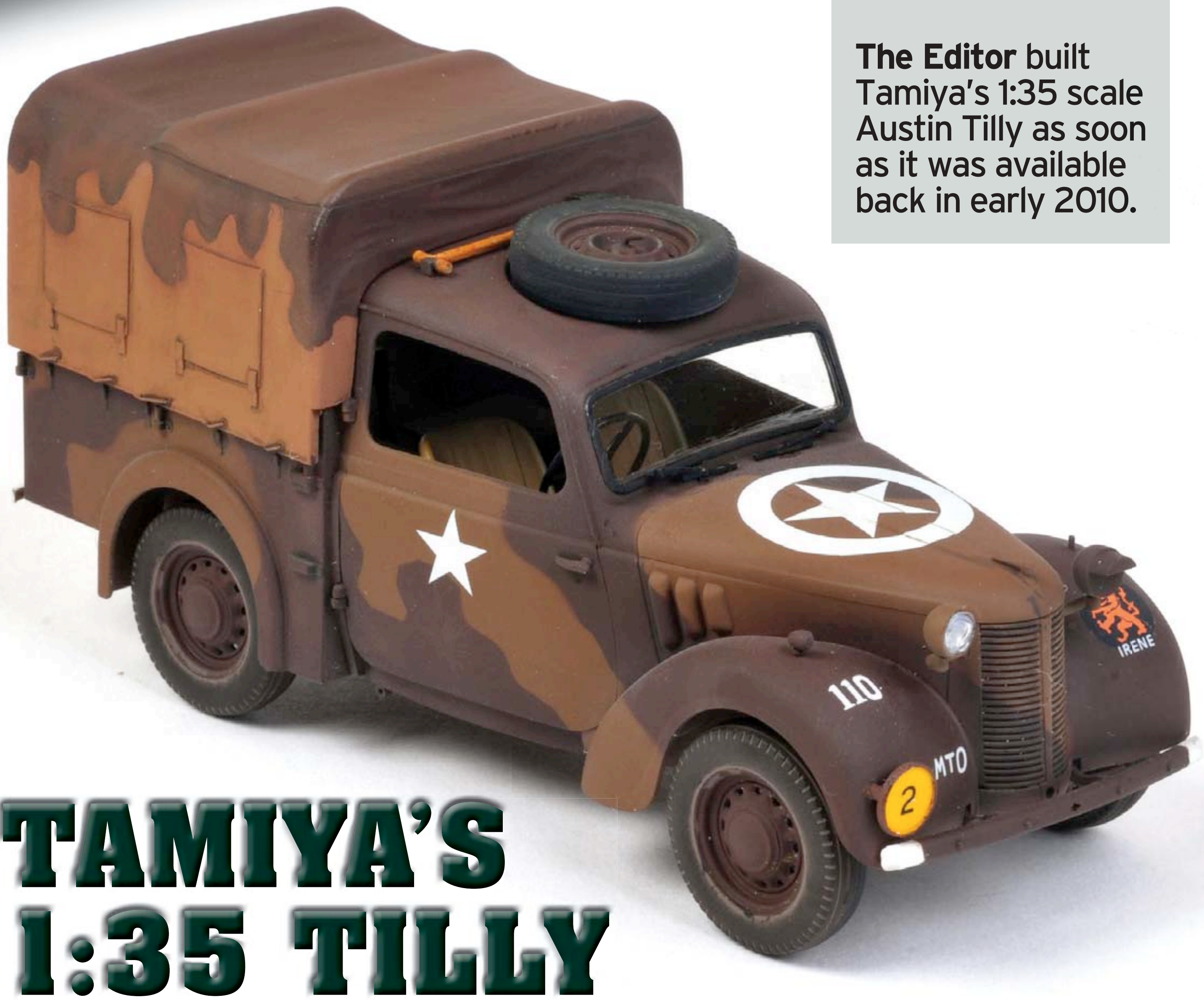
Rating ●●●●●●●●●◐



The French camouflage is challenging but well worth the effort!

Tamiya 1:35 scale British Light Utility Car 10HP • Item No. 35308

The Editor built Tamiya's 1:35 scale Austin Tilly as soon as it was available back in early 2010.



TAMIYA'S 1:35 TILLY

I built Tamiya's then-new 1:35 scale British Light Utility Car 10HP "Tilly" as soon as it was released back in early 2010.

Tamiya's 1:35 scale Tilly comprises 94 parts in olive coloured plastic and five in clear. Markings are supplied for four vehicles.

The 1:35 scale model features a higher level of detail and more options than the smaller scale Tilly from 2009. For a start, Tamiya's 1:35 scale kit features full engine detail that may be displayed under the separate poseable bonnet. The driver's and passenger's doors are separate parts too.

The chassis and suspension are well done. The interior is fairly basic but quite appropriate for this simple vehicle. The texture of the seats is very nice. Decals are supplied for the two instrument dials.

A multitude of options are supplied this time around. These include early wooden or later metal tailgate (these may be posed open or closed), short or long exhaust pipes, open or closed rear tilt flap; folded or deployed rear seats; separate hub caps; two styles of radiator grille and various different headlights and indicators.

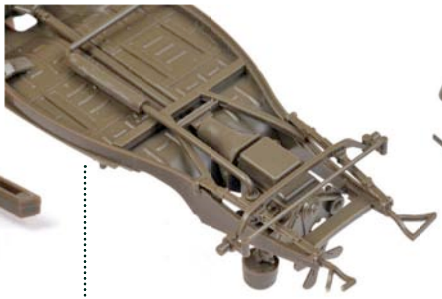
Moulding quality is everything you would expect from a new Tamiya kit – in other words, superb. There are only a few ejector pin circles to deal with on the inside of the doors and the tailgate.

CONSTRUCTION

Building Tamiya's new 1:35 scale Tilly is an enjoyable experience. Construction commences with the tiny but perfectly formed engine. This includes much of the detail of the real thing, including the carburettor, air filter, exhaust manifold, oil filter, dip stick, generator, fan and fan belt. The engine bay also has a battery moulded in place, and a separate radiator. The completed engine assembly is mounted through the opening in the bottom of the chassis – just like the real thing. The rear suspension, differential and drive shaft are moulded as a single piece, but this does not imply a compromise in detail. In fact, the effect of the bottom of the body and the chassis is very good indeed, despite the ease and speed of assembly.

I was not paying adequate attention to the instructions, so I managed to use the wrong tailgate for my chosen option. The early wooden version (Part A6) was glued in place instead of the metal tailgate (Part A1). I did such a

Tamiya supplies a nicely detailed little engine.



Lower body and chassis detail.

Main sub-assemblies ready to be brought together.

thorough job that I could not prise the incorrect part off the back of the cargo tray!

The engine received a base coat of Tamiya XF-5 Flat Green prior to the various main sub-assemblies being painted.

Although the multi-part body might look a little intimidating at first, the parts all fit together perfectly.

PAINTING

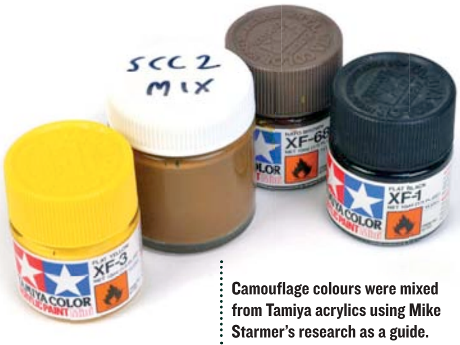
I liked the look of the two-tone brown scheme. The instructions offer a formula for mixing SCC2 and SCC1A Brown from Tamiya acrylics, and I followed these to the letter. I mixed up a big batch of the base colour – SCC2 – and stored it in a glass jar. This would avoid problems with mismatching shades if I needed to reapply or touch up this colour after the initial paint job.

Prior to the body shell being added to the vehicle, the decal instrument dials were applied to the dashboard over a brush-painted coat of Future.

The instructions call out for the canvas tilt to be painted the same colours as the body, but I wanted to depict the fabric as somewhat faded. This was pretty common according to wartime photographs. I added perhaps 15% of Tamiya XF-15 Flat Flesh to my SCC2 mix to deliver this faded shade. I was hoping for a salmon pink shade, and I was not disappointed!

The camouflage pattern was first drawn onto the sides of the tilt with a 2B pencil. Why a 2B pencil? Well, this is a fairly soft and dark pencil, so it will show up well over paint, but it is hard enough to keep its point for a reasonable period between sharpenings. 2B is my pencil of choice.

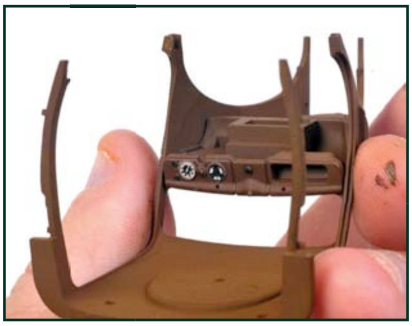
The outline of the pattern was then painted on with a fine brush, followed by a broader brush ▶



Camouflage colours were mixed from Tamiya acrylics using Mike Starmer's research as a guide.

The painted engine in place. You won't see much of this on the finished model!

Seats painted and ready for installation.



Tamiya supplies decals for the instrument dials.

A nice view of the interior before it disappears beneath the body.

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

Tamiya 1:35 scale British Light Utility Car 10HP • Item No. 35308

◀ painting. The balance of the SCC1A Brown was sprayed with the airbrush.

I took a different tack with the camouflage pattern on the body. First I stuck pieces of Tamiya's wide Kabuki tape to the plastic, then drew the camouflage pattern onto the tape. The tape was then removed, the pattern cut out and reapplied to the body. With all the camouflage sections in place, the dark SCC1A Brown was sprayed in several thin coats over the self-adhesive masks. The masking process took around an hour, but the painting itself was finished in less than ten minutes.

The wheels were sprayed SCC1A Brown, then the rims received a brush-painted outline of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black paint. The wheel rims were then roughly masked with a blob of Blu-Tack. This technique makes painting the tyres very fast and easy, and does not require commercial masks.

As the painting was nearing completion, I decided that I did not really like the salmon shade of the tilt. I also decided to fade the darker SCC1A Brown a bit more. The new light shade was a mix of SCC2 and XF-60 Dark Yellow, rendering a more neutral faded colour.

The model now received several thin coats of Future floor polish for a glossy finish in preparation for the kit decals. These performed well, although the "Irene" marking on the front passenger's side fender needed some slicing and Solvaset to get it to sit over the compound curves of the mudguard.

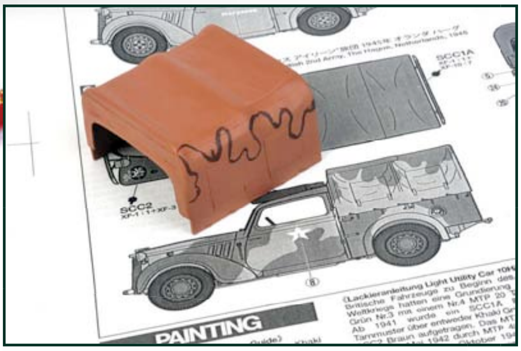
Right at the finishing line I encountered a couple of problems. First, I dropped one of the tiny dark brown parking lights onto my dark brown carpet. Needless to say, it is lost forever, or at least lost until after this issue of the magazine has gone to the printer!

The second problem was the appearance of white stains on the model after application of decals and setting solutions. This has happened a few times before and fortunately the solution is simple and safe. A fresh coat of Future floor polish was sprayed over the offending marks and they obligingly disappeared.

The entire vehicle was sprayed with Gunze H20 Flat Clear. For some reason I could not obtain the

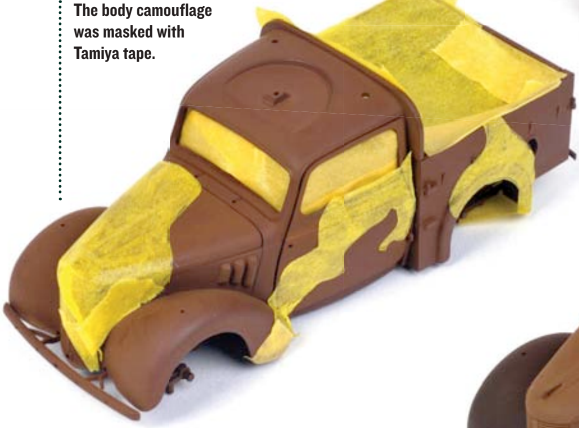
COLUMBIA
COPPERPLATE

The camouflage for the canopy was first drawn on with a pencil...



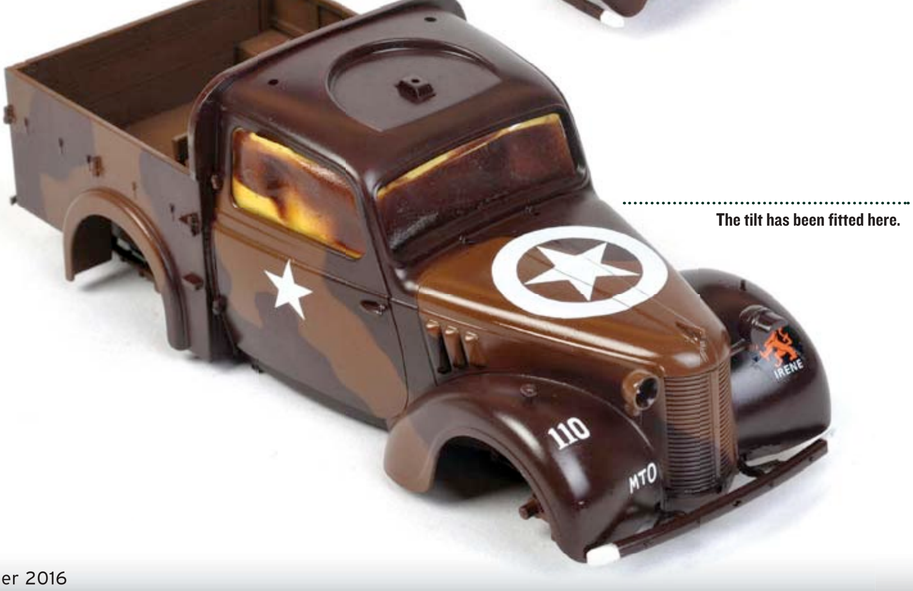
...then the outline was painted with the mixed darker colour...

...before the larger areas were sprayed with the airbrush.

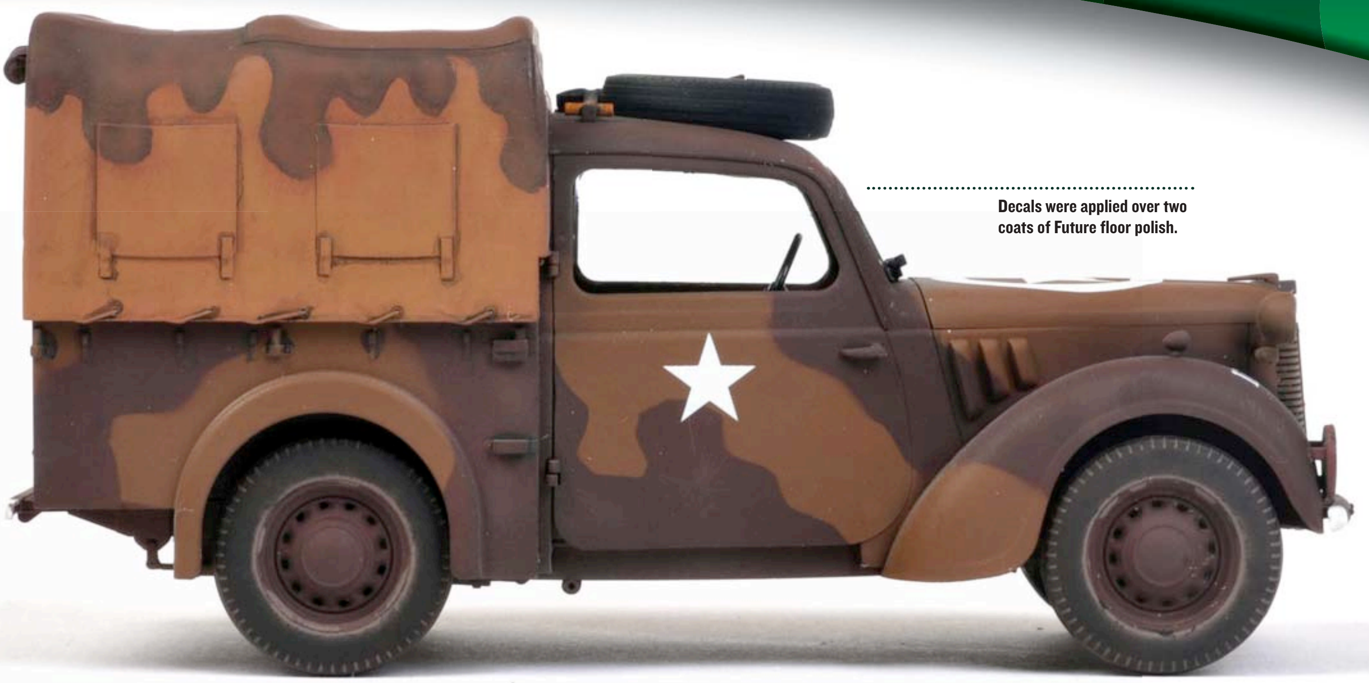


The body camouflage was masked with Tamiya tape.

The raw camouflage in place.



The tilt has been fitted here.


Decals were applied over two coats of Future floor polish.

usual dead flat finish even after several coats, so I added a blob of Tamiya Flat Base to the airbrush paint cup. That did the trick.

Weathering was kept to a bare minimum. A thin dark oil wash was applied to the tailgate and to the flaps and ropes on the tilt. Mig Pigments were used sparingly on the wheels.

The inside of the headlight was painted silver and the clear lens secured with Gator's Acrylic Glue. The windscreen was masked and the border sprayed black before being glued in place too. The side windows are separate parts. I left the driver's side window off to suggest that it had been rolled down, but the passenger's side window was glued from the inside.

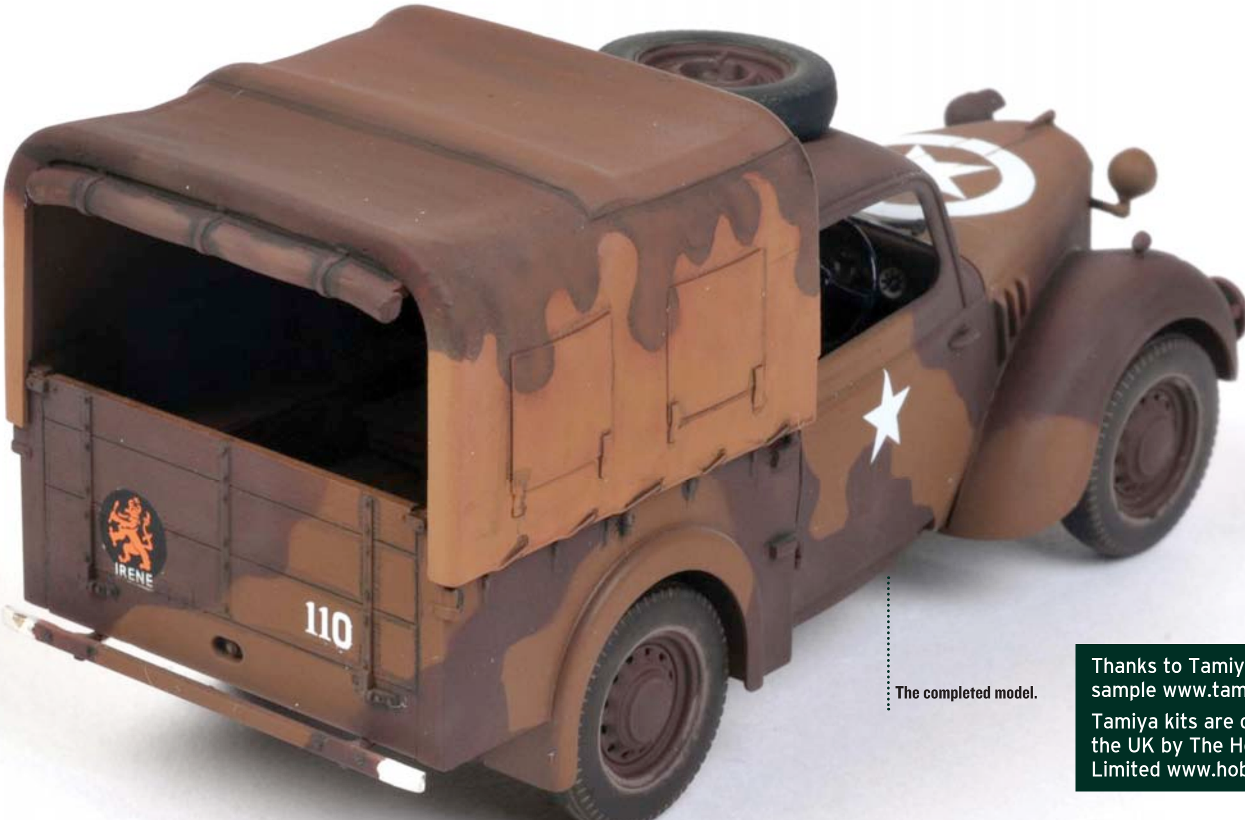
The handle of the shovel was painted XF-60 Dark Yellow, then streaked with X-26 Clear Orange before a coat of Gunze Flat Clear.

CONCLUSION

Tamiya's 1:35 British Light Utility Car 10HP is cleverly engineered, easy to build and nicely detailed kit.

Remarkably, I did not use so much as a smear of filler anywhere on this kit. In fact, the fit was so good that I have not glued the doors, the bonnet nor the tilt in place. All of these may be removed to display more of the kit's detail.

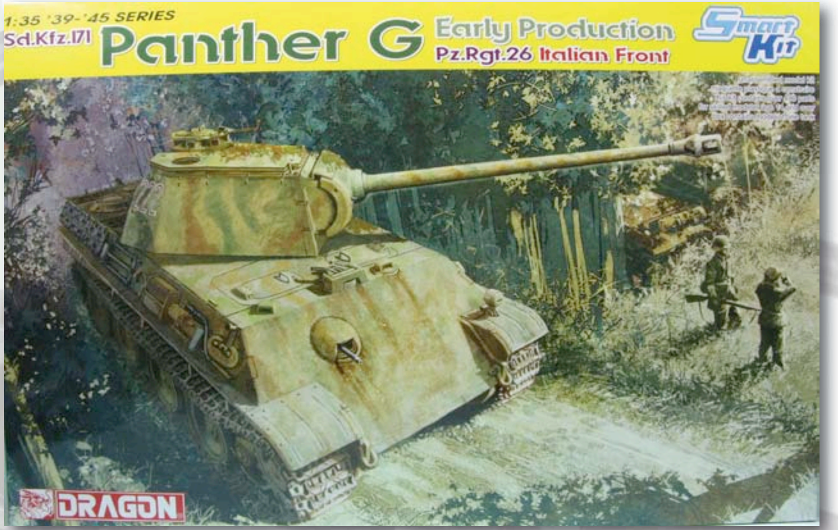
Comparisons with SKP's 2009 release Austin Tilly are inevitable. It is certain that Tamiya's kit is a faster build with superior fit. Tamiya's inclusion of a full engine bay and numerous options is a real advantage too. ■



The completed model.

Thanks to Tamiya for the sample www.tamiya.com

Tamiya kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net



VINTAGE PANTHER

Andy King describes a re-release in Dragon's venerable 1:35 scale Panther series.

The Panther was intended to counter the Soviet T-34 and to replace the Panzer III and Panzer IV. Nevertheless, it served alongside the latter and the heavier Tiger I until the end of the war. It is considered one of the best tanks of World War II for its excellent firepower and protection. Its reliability was less impressive.

The Panther was a compromise. While having essentially the same engine as the Tiger I, it had more efficient frontal hull armour, better gun penetration, was lighter and faster, and could traverse rough terrain better than the Tiger I. The trade-off was weaker side armour, which made it vulnerable to flanking fire. The Panther proved to be effective in open country and long range engagements, but did not provide enough high explosive firepower against infantry.

The Panther was far cheaper to produce than the Tiger I, and only slightly more expensive than the Panzer IV. Key elements of the Panther design, such as its armour, transmission, and final drive, were simplifications made to improve production rates and address raw material shortages, although the overall design remained somewhat over-engineered.*

In modelling terms, Dragon's 1:35 scale range of Panthers is getting on a bit now but they are still the best available.

This re-release sees an early production Panther G that was issued to Panzer Regt. 26 while they were in Italy. What makes this particular kit notable is that a double skin of armour plate was added to the turret top and in some cases additional plating was welded over the rear engine grills but you would have to check your references for that.

In the box we find 14 sprues in grey styrene, one clear sprue for the periscopes, two frets of etch metal for the grenade screens and spaced armour for the turret roof, a bag of metal hooks for the turret mounted track hangers, a small decal sheet and two lengths of DS Vinyl track.

Considering the age of the kit, all parts are cleanly moulded with little or no flash present (except for the tracks) and as is usual with Dragon you get a lot of extra bits to put in the spares box. Details such as weld seams are good and although the tool clamps are moulded onto the on-vehicle equipment they are pretty good, maybe requiring a little thinning down.

The barrel is a slide-moulded item and is okay, but I would probably replace it with an aftermarket item.

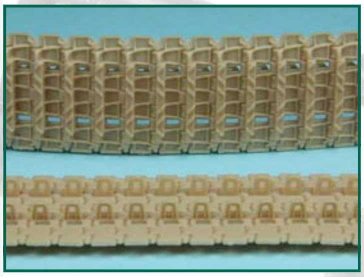
No interior is provided apart from a basic gun breech in the turret and in my sample the vinyl tracks don't have any flattened guide horns this time due to the packaging. The detail on the tracks is actually pretty good but some flash is still present especially on the ends of the links and in the holes for the drive sprockets.

The big problem with the kit is that Dragon fails to point out in the instructions that it requires an application of the anti-magnetic zimmerit paste as it is an early Panther G. This may deter some, however there are many aftermarket zimmerit sets designed for this kit (just don't use etched zimmerit as it looks awful) if you're not up to doing it yourself.

As the kit is presented as a Panther from a particular unit, the painting guide is limited and markings are confined to turret numbers only. Colour call outs are for the Mr Hobby and Model Master paint ranges.

Even though this kit is pretty specific, with the amount of spare parts in the box such as gun mantlets, rear engine access panel, some steel road wheels, crew heater grill for the engine deck and engine exhausts, with some careful research it's entirely possible to model a mid or late production Panther G. ■

Thanks to the Hobby Company Limited for the review sample
www.hobbyco.net


The kit is supplied with full-length flexible DS tracks.

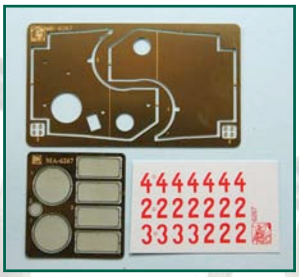
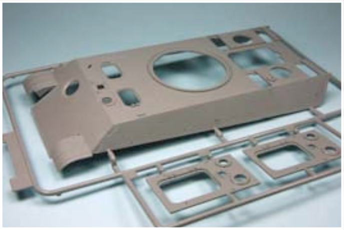
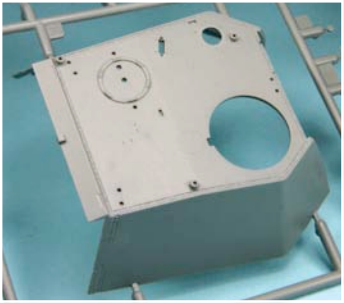
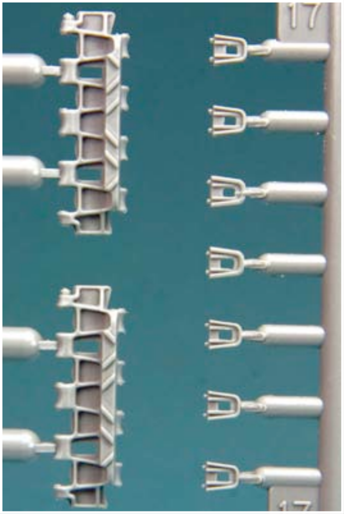


Photo-etch and decals.


The one-piece upper hull and alternative engine covers.


The turret shell.



I wish the kit had two full lengths of these tracks!

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
The one-piece slide moulded plastic gun barrel.

Crisp detail on the road wheels.

Cast texture moulded to the gun mantlet, but the kit really requires Zimmerit.

---

*Historical summary courtesy of Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panther_tank

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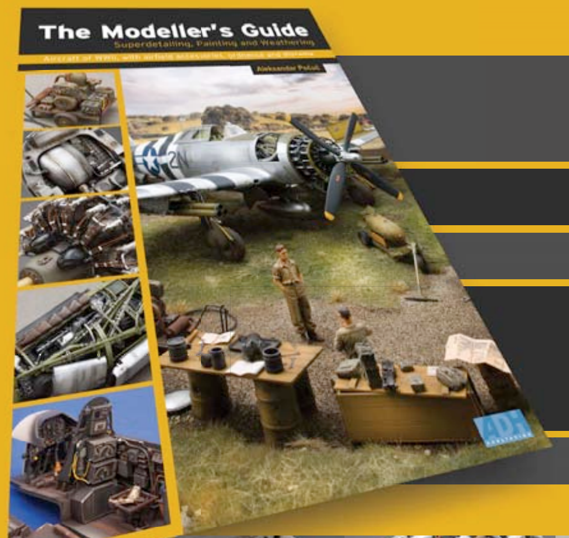
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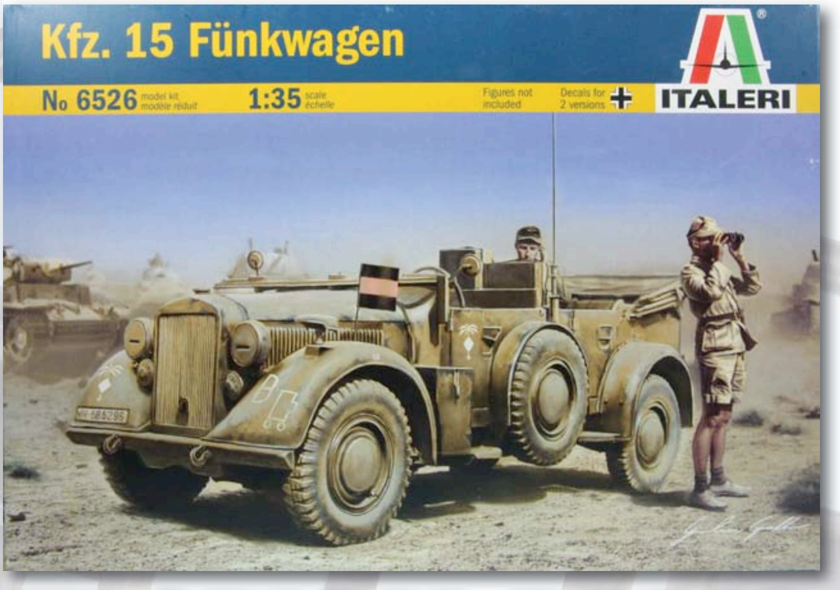


TROPICAL RADIO CAR

Italeri rolls out their 1:35 scale Kfz.15 again. **Andy King** checks out how it looks in today's modelling market.

Newly arrived from Italeri is this little 1:35 scale passenger car that was used by the Wehrmacht during WWII. The chassis was used for many variants and this particular vehicle is the signals version that was equipped with a Fug 5 radio and generator. It is an early model as on later ones the two spare wheels were eliminated to free up more space in the cabin.

The Kfz.15 has been in the Italeri back catalogue for some time now (read decades) but according to the box top this particular kit has 'upgraded moulds' and presumably Italeri has cleaned up the tooling so let's investigate.

You get two sprues moulded in grey styrene, a single clear sprue, six vinyl tyres and a decal sheet. Although there are two figures featured on the box art there are none included (which might be just as well as figures are not one of Italeri's strong points).

Moulding quality is okay with only a bit of flash here and there. Seam lines are present, especially on the chassis and canvas roof, which are a bit heavy and pin marks are dotted about, mainly in hard to see areas but on the body panels behind the rear and spare wheels are six each side which may be visible. There is a 'waffle pattern' texture to the cabin floor which seems a bit odd and the front grill and vents to the bonnet (or hood) are moulded solid.

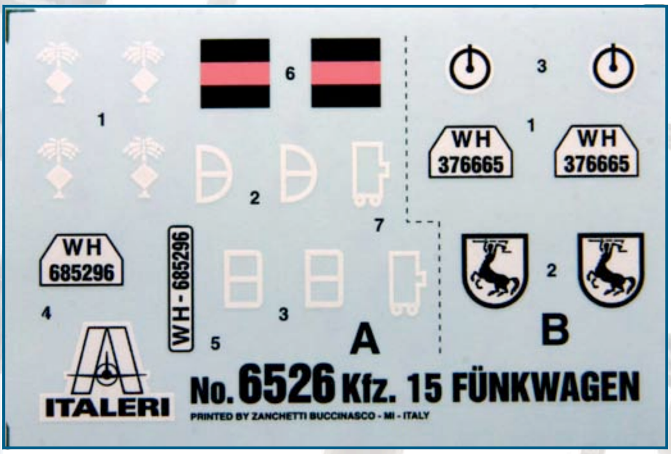
The instrument panel is pretty nondescript, and there are no decals for the instruments either so you'll have to look to the aftermarket people such as Archer for these. The FuG 5 radio is useable but would benefit from some cabling between it and the generator with some earphones attached to busy it up a bit.

There is no engine provided but the chassis is okay for what you can see, however I would seriously look at replacing the shock absorber springs with ones made from actual springs or fuse wire wrapped around tubing of similar diameter as the kit ones are very undernourished. The front wheels are modelled straight and to turn them looks near impossible without resorting to major surgery on the suspension assemblies.

The canvas roof has a decent enough texture on the top but features nothing on the sides. The six vinyl tyres are very plain with no attempt at lettering on the side walls and all have a line of flash around the circumference with four in my sample featuring flash on the sides. The cabin glazing and windscreen are clear enough with no moulding faults although they are a little on the thick side.

Just two colour schemes are suggested in the painting instructions - an all-over sand 21st Panzer Division vehicle in North Africa 1942 and an all over grey one from the Regimental Staff, Panzer Regiment 'Hermann Goring', Italy late 1943.

As stated above this kit has 'upgraded moulds' but basically it's still an old one, however it makes a good starting point that can be improved on with aftermarket or your own home-made additions. Little things like etched rifle clamps, scribing the bonnet grills with a dressmaker's pin, new resin tyres (if available) and some dials for the instrument panel would lift this model a great deal. ■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A
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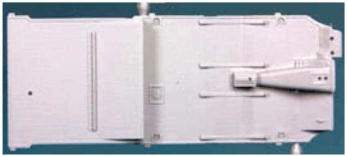
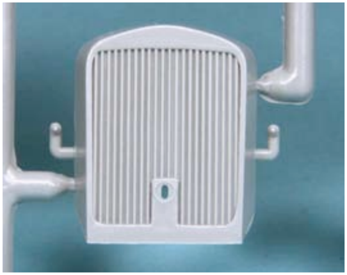
ITALERI
No. 6526 Kfz. 15 FÜNKWAGEN
PRINTED BY ZANCHETTI BUCCINASCO - MI - ITALY

Markings are supplied for two vehicles.

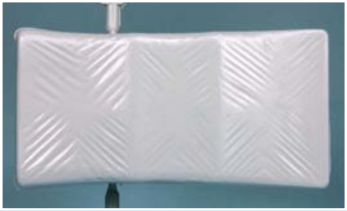
Thanks to the Hobby Company Limited for the review sample
www.hobbyco.net



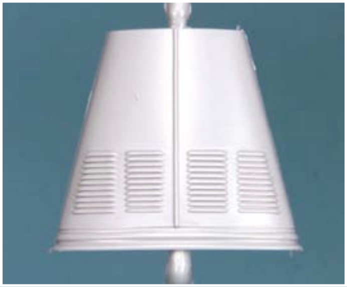
Non-slip texture moulded onto the cabin floor.



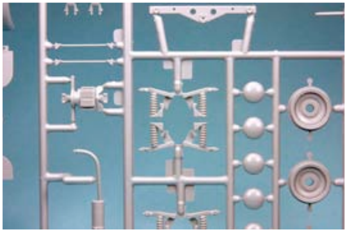
Recessed radiator grille detail is well done.



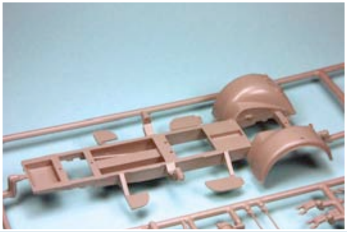
The top of the canvas roof.



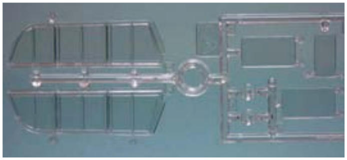
Raised vent detail on the bonnet.



The kit's chassis.



Suspension springs are a bit underdone.



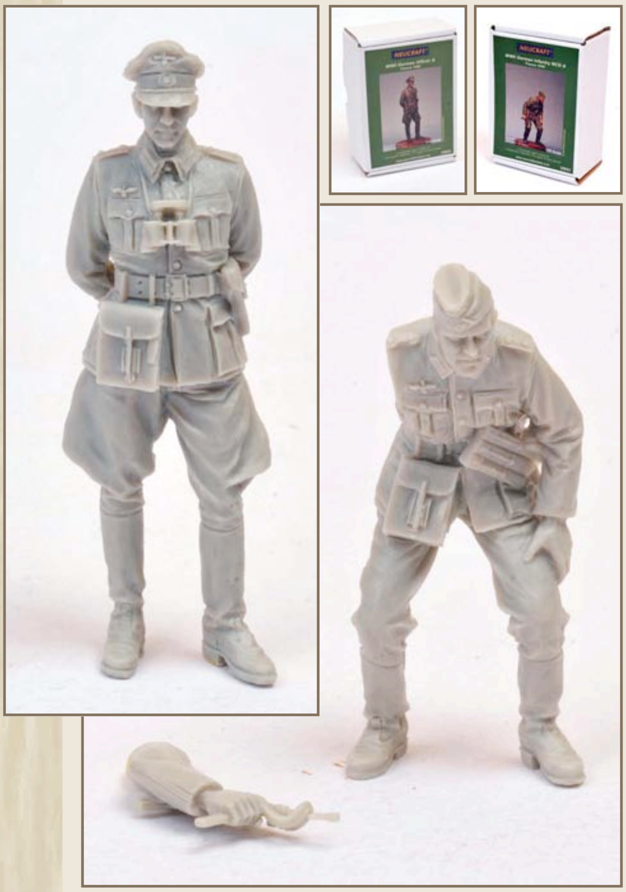
The clear sprue.

Five vinyl tyres are included.

Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

NEUCRAFT MODELS

1:35 SCALE
ITEM NO. 35002 - WWII GERMAN OFFICER A FRANCE 1940
ITEM NO. 35003 - WWII GERMAN INFANTRY NCO A FRANCE 1940



Neucraft Models is a new company that offers figures and vehicles in various scales for wargamers and military modellers.

We examined their first foray into 1:35 scale figure modelling, a Modern Russian Tankman, in MMI Issue 124.

They have now expanded into the popular field of 1:35 scale German figures. Specifically, these are Item No. 35002, "WWII German Officer A France 1940" and Item No. 35003, "WWII German Infantry NCO A France 1940".

Both figures are well sculpted in natural, casual poses. The officer wears his peaked cap and jodhpurs and is standing with his hands clasped behind his back. The NCO is bending down, armed with an MP-40 sub-machine gun and wearing a side cap, suggesting behind-the-lines activity. Fabric drape looks good on both figures.

The faces are really well rendered too. These are two high quality figures from Neucraft. The relaxed poses and abundance of Blitzkrieg era German vehicle models (or knocked out French tanks for that matter!) makes them very versatile too.

Highly Recommended.

Available online from Neucraft Models www.neucraftmodels.com

Brett Green

MINIART

1:16 MANRED VON RICHTHOFEN "THE RED BARON"
ITEM NO. 16032

The Red Baron
Manfred von Richthofen
WWI FLYING ACE
16032
1:16
MiniArt

In addition to their large range of 1:35 scale vehicles, figure sets and buildings, MiniArt also offers a range of large scale 1:16 figures.

The subjects range from the Classical Greek period, through Roman, Medieval, the Napoleonic era and WWI. Three of the figures are dedicated to famous WWI aces Ernst Udet, Hermann Goering and "The Red Baron", Manfred von Richthofen.

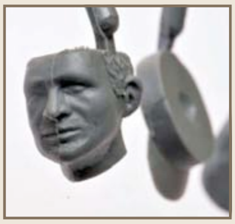
The 1:16 scale Red Baron figure includes the pilot himself, leaning on an ornamental walking stick, and his deerhound Moritz, although the big dog does not appear on the box art.

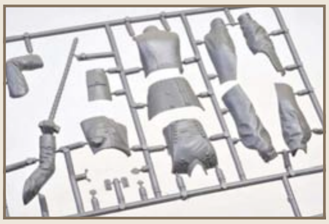
The set comprises just 25 pieces in grey plastic covering the man and his hound. A small circular base in reddish coloured plastic is also included. This is big enough for von Richthofen, but the dog won't fit.

Moulding quality is generally good and detail is excellent, but you'll want to glue the pieces together carefully to minimise join seams in prominent places. Medals and epaulets are moulded as separate parts. Oddly, the head is moulded sideways on the sprue meaning that there is a large raised moulding seam right down the middle of the face. The detail on the left side of the face seems softer than that on the right side too.

In summary though, after spending a bit of time cleaning up the face, this should be a large and impressive display piece.

Thanks to Creative Models Australia for the sample www.creativemodels.com.au





ITALERI

1:35 MODERN LIGHT WEAPONS SET
ITEM NO. 6421

This set is entitled Modern Light Weapons but it actually first appeared about thirty years ago (I know as I bought the set myself) so the weapons are not really that modern after all.

What you get in the box is a selection of small arms, machine guns, etc., such as the M1911A1, Walther P1, Beretta 92 pistols (I had to smile at the Luger P08 and Tokarev TT-33 being included as a 'modern' weapons), FN-FAL rifle, M16A1, AK-47 and Sterling L2A3 machine guns, M60 machine gun, Browning .50cal heavy machine gun, and one set each of Milan and TOW anti-tank missiles.

All parts feature seam lines to varying degrees and there are pin marks on most of the weapons and various parts, also there are some sink marks evident on the breeches of the .50cal and a couple of parts related to the MILAN anti-tank weapon. Remarkably considering the age of this set there is little to no flash on the parts.

Detail wise the weapons are not that bad really although I imagine the anti-tank missile launchers are somewhat simplified, at least the triggers on some of the rifles and MG's are visible and not just solid lumps of plastic.

It's quite easy to dismiss this re-issue especially with the word 'modern' in the title, however considering its age the set is quite useful for those modelling the 1980s era (and earlier) and as stated the weapons are not bad at all, some extra detailing such as straps for the rifles would improve them no end.

Thanks to the Hobby Company for the review sample www.hobbyco.net

SO MODELLING IS COOL, RIGHT?

What motivates you to build? I recently became involved in a discussion on Facebook on this very subject.

The prompt was a question about goal setting and what you wanted to achieve in the next five years or so. Many of the respondents quoted the usual stuff like winning a major competition or completing that long forgotten shelf queen. Some however, were quite funny (but I suspect have a hidden meaning) like "I'd just be happy getting one model finished!" or "after I read your goals, I guess I'm not qualified to do the hobby I'll just have to quit!" or "Mine is to actually do some modelling! That would be an achievement".

Although amusing, there seems to be a certain trend to these - lack of time or motivation. I can relate to this, as I suffer from the same problem.

The model I'm working on now for instance is quite simply huge and I'm up to the weathering stage. Given the size of this beast and knowing my build speed, I think I'm looking at a few more weekends' work to complete the process. This can be a demotivation in itself.

Some of the responses touched a nerve with me one of them was "I just wanted to make stuff that looks really cool. I needed to get it out of my mind and into plastic". This comment really encapsulated everything I want to do with my models.

It also begs the question, what is cool?

For some, the German Tiger is cool while for others anything that is modern is cool. For me, a really well made model is cool. Looking at master modellers that produce all the aftermarket stuff we buy, they have a different perspective of what cool is and what motivates them.

One response was "The funny thing; the biggest kick I got out of mastering and selling resin was the idea that someone would like my handiwork enough to buy it and build it. The money never meant that much to me in comparison". The funny thing is I've heard that before from Bill Wiseman (of Anvil track fame). He says that he got more of a kick out of someone using his tracks than actually building a model for himself.

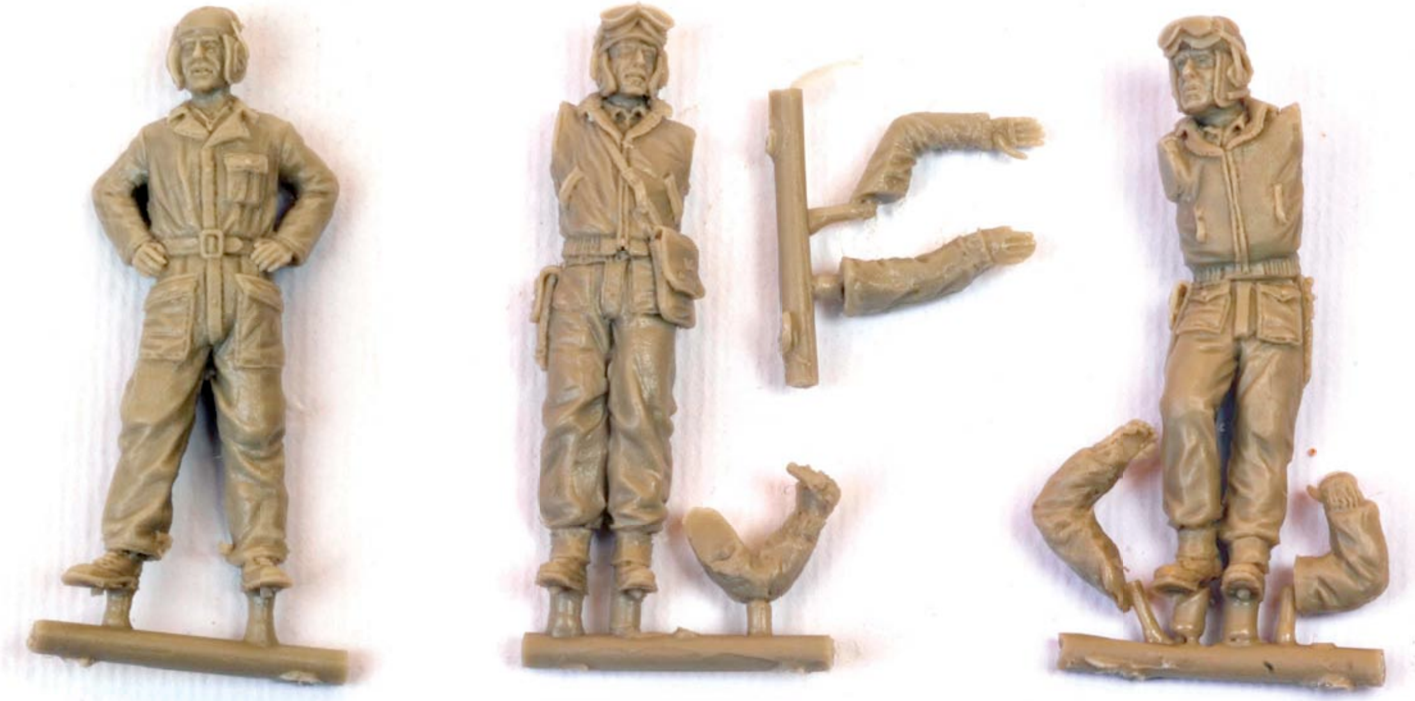
So modelling is cool but being cool means different things to different people.

I thought I'd leave you with the last comment I read in a thread on Facebook and it was in direct response to a question on goal setting:

"Having goals focusses the mind. I always have lists of goals and ambitions. If I don't reach them I don't beat myself up. I ask why I've not done it and crack on. I have some short term goals and some long term goals - things I want to do before I leave this planet, although sadly I have to concede that sleeping with Jennifer Aniston is looking less likely to happen, but I have not given up yet despite the restraining order".

Cool and indeed funny comment.

Until Next Time
Luke Pitt



FIGURES WITH ATTITUDE

1:48 SCALE STANDING US TANK CREW

In my opinion, figures are the ultimate counterpoint to any model. They relay a sense of scale to the models we produce and if they are well done, they can be a detail hot spot that draws the casual observer toward the chosen piece.

This month we review three WWII US Tankers from Figures with Attitude. The casting is flawless on all figures sent for review. The head sculpts are next to perfect and show great finesse in both detail and charter. The uniform details are handled incredibly well as are the fabric creases and indeed the casual posing of the figures themselves.

All of these figures could be easily adapted to any US Tank and would be the perfect finishing touch.

If you buy one set of 1:48 scale US World War II figures this year, buy these. You will be simply amazed at the detail the exhibit.

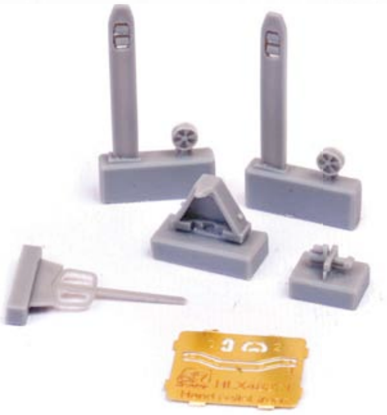
Figures with Attitude may be contacted on their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/FiguresWithAttitude48/

Highly recommended.

Thanks to Figures With Attitude for the samples.

Luke Pitt

1/48
HLX48370
Horch 4x4
Type 1a
(TAMIYA)
model accessories
Hauler
1/48
HLX48371
Hand pallet
truck
model accessories
Hauler



HAULER

1:48 SCALE
HORCH 4X4 TYPE 1A
PHOTOETCH UPDATE
ITEM NO. HLX48370
HAND PALLET TRUCK
ITEM NO. HLX48371

You know, I was hoping for more with this update for the recently released Tamiya Horch by Hauler. What I wanted was the grille work at the front of the vehicle but alas that was not to be.

What is included, however, is the headlight mounts, all the tool brackets and associated mounting hardware, turn indicators and rear vision mirrors, mudflaps, instrument panel, perforated side steps seat brackets. Various grab handles and a windscreen surround are also included.

Don't get me wrong. This set is an absolute must for anyone wanting to replace the overly thick parts in the kit and will certainly enhance an already great kit. I just wanted that front grille work too!

The second item to be reviewed this month falls into the category of "why didn't someone think of this sooner?"

The humble pallet jack can be seen in almost all warehouses today and may be traced back to 1918 when they were first invented.

Consisting of just seven very well done cast resin pieces, it has almost endless applications and is a great addition to the 1:48 scale Hauler range.

Recommended.

Thanks to Hauler for the samples www.hauler.cz

Luke Pitt

AIRFIX
1:48 ALBION 3-POINT FUELLER

RMC 2112
230
Albion AM463 3-Point Fueller
A03312

AIRFIX

1:48 SCALE
ALBION 3-POINT FUELLER
ITEM NO. A03312

Albion Automotive of Scotstoun, Glasgow was a Scottish automobile and commercial vehicle manufacturer.

From WWI to the 1950s, Albion rivalled Foden for the reliability and ruggedness of their trucks.

By the outbreak of WWII, more than 400 Albion 3-Point Fuellers were in use with the RAF, both in Europe and the Far and Middle East. Many went to France with the RAF in 1940, and suffered a similar fate to the vehicles of the British Army, being abandoned on the run back to Dunkirk.

Those that remained gave sterling service during the Battle of Britain, helping to quickly refuel fighters in between sorties, their three refueling hoses drastically cutting down the time needed.*

Released in May 2015, the Airfix 1:48 scale Albion 3-Point Fueller comprises 106 parts in pale grey plastic, eight parts in clear plastic and decals for a single vehicle.

Moulding quality is generally good with only a bit of flash and minimal imperfections.

Surface textures are really good, with subtle pressed metal and woodgrain effects where appropriate. The tyres' tread pattern looks good too.

The model includes an engine. Cab detail is quite nice, and a decal is supplied for the small instrument panel. Cab doors are separate, so they may be left open if you wish. The windscreen and door windows are supplied as clear parts. Presumably you could leave off the side windows if you wish to pose them rolled down.

Front wheels may be posed straight ahead or turned.

The rear doors are moulded as one piece but may be cut open if you wish to display the refueling controls.

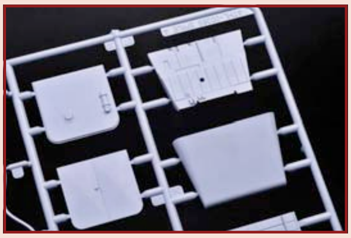
The characteristic refuelling arms may be posed stowed or deployed at whatever angle you wish. The hoses are moulded in solid plastic (a good thing in my view).

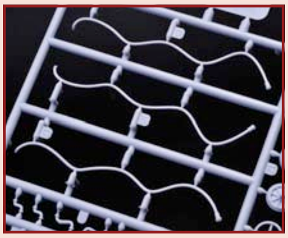
Airfix's 1:48 scale Albion 3-Point Fueller is great news for all 1:48 scale modellers, be they of the aircraft or military persuasion. This is a really nice model in its own right, but will be ideal for use in an airfield or battlefield diorama.

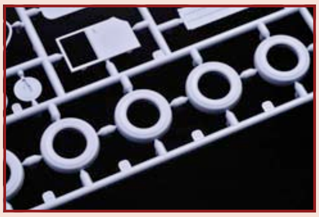
Highly Recommended.

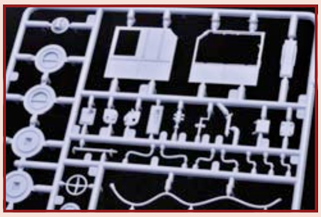
Sample purchased by reviewer.

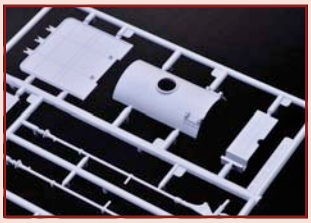
Brett Green

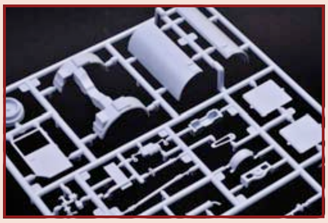


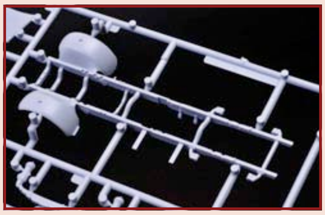


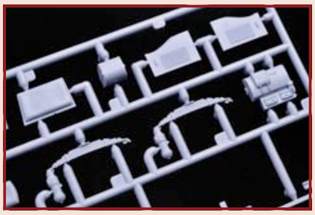


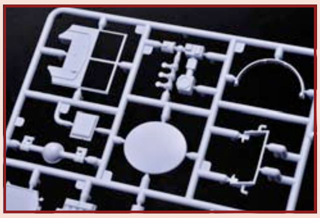


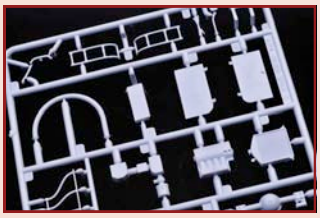


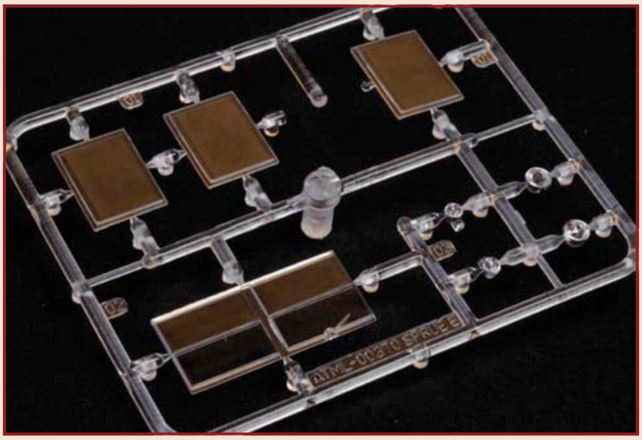












*Historical summary courtesy of Wikipedia and the Airfix website.

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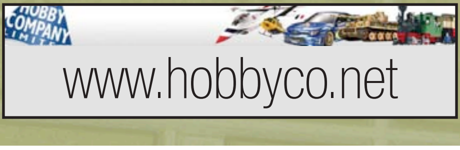

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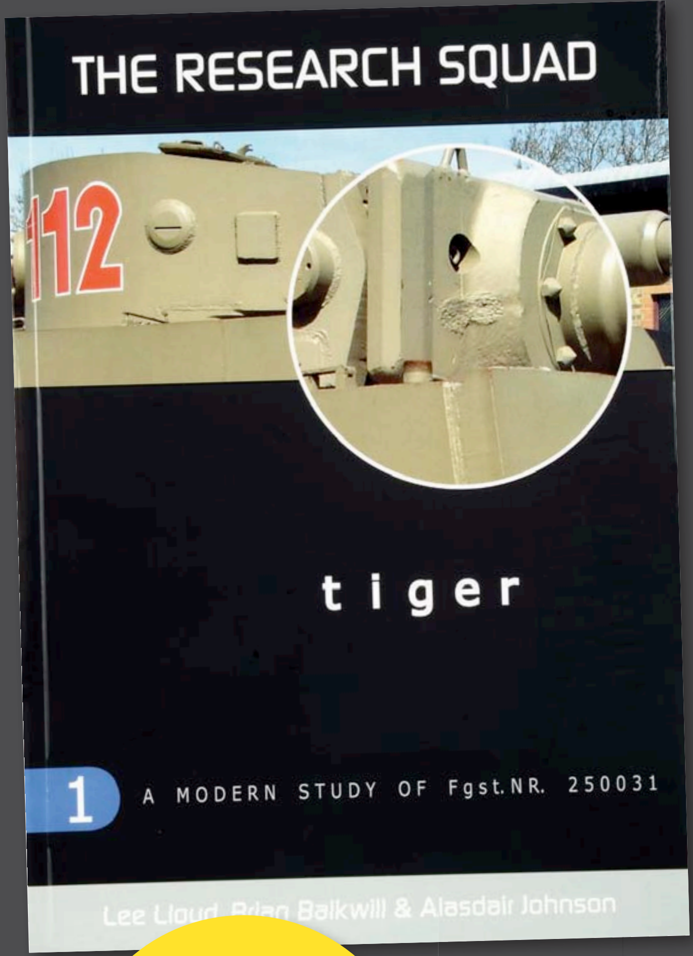
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Tiger

A Modern study of Fgst.NR. 250031

The Research Squad are pleased to announce the release of Tiger: Modern Study of Fgst. NR. 250031, a complete photo study of the Aberdeen 712 Tiger tank. The Research Squad were given given special permission by the collection and Aberdeen Proving Ground Museum to fully document this important vehicle in order to create a photographic record for any future restoration work. This includes a full exterior walk-around, a complete documentation of the interior and also a detailed study of the engine compartment and engine.

To this end the knowledge and expertise of many contributors were brought together, not least of which were our two technical editors, Liejon Schoot and Rob Veenendaal, without whose massive contribution this book would not have been completed.
208 pages
+/- 690 images.
69 technical diagrams (including 27 selected re-mastered diagrams at A4 size)

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Next Issue

On sale 6th October, 2016

A BRIT IN BERLIN

John Bonnani finishes Takom's 1:35 scale Takom Mk.V Hermaphrodite as a vehicle with an interesting history!

INTERWAR MEDIUM

Chris Meddings builds the HobbyBoss 1:35 scale Vickers Medium Mk.I.

STALIN'S GREEN DEVIL

Pawel Rzymski presents Tamiya's 1:35 scale IS-3.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

SAUMUR INTERNATIONAL MODELLING EXHIBITION 2016

Pawel Rzymski reports from a model show in a very spectacular setting!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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Group Editor;	Marcus Nicholls
Publisher;	Alan Harman
Graphic Design;	Alex Hall
Advertising Manager;	Sean Leslie
Office Manager;	Paula Gray
Administration Manager;	Hannah McLaurie
Administration Assistant;	Julie Lane
MMI Website;	ADH Web Team

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Editorial enquiries;
Email; editor@modelmilitary.com

Advertising enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
Email; sean@adhpublishing.com

Subscription enquiries;
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573
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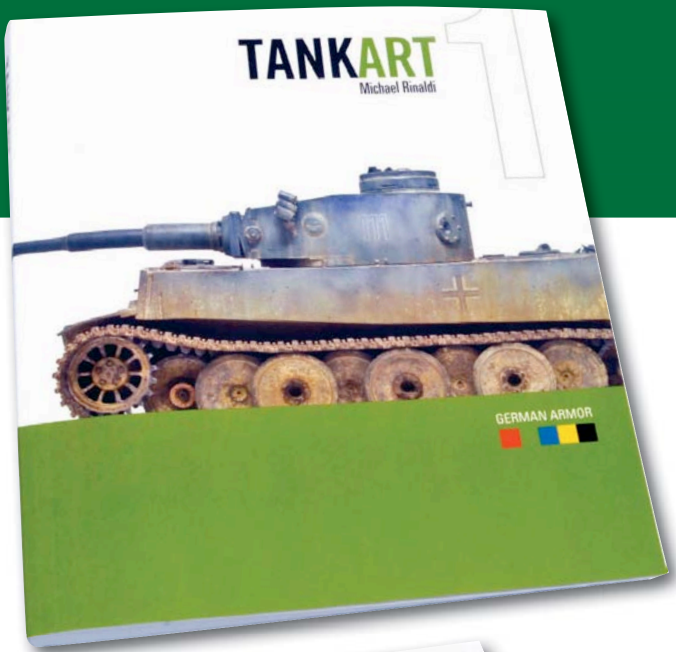
TANK ART 1 (THIRD REVISED EDITION) WWII GERMAN ARMOR

By Michael Rinaldi

ISBN: 978-0-9883363-1-5

Rinaldi Studio Press



Michael Rinaldi is a world-class armour modeller whose work will be familiar through his extensive portfolio appearing in magazines and on the Internet.

Mike's painting and weathering techniques are particularly striking, so it was hardly surprising when Mike launched his "Tank Art" series of books back in 2013. The first subject was German Armour. This was followed up by two more volumes on Allied and Modern armour, and an all-new Volume 4 continuing the theme of German armour finishes.

The sub-title to this series debut is "A Guide to Painting and Weathering WWII German Armour". The book succeeds superbly in its stated aim as a step-by-step painting and weathering guide for modellers.

The newest addition to the series is a third revised version of Tank Art Volume 1, German Armor.

This revised volume is presented as usual in a squarish format but has been expanded from its original 208 pages of glossy, high-grade paper to 288 pages.

The contents are broken down logically, commencing with Products and Materials before moving on to three Chapters discussing specific techniques - Weathering Principles; the increasingly important Hairspray Technique and Oil Paint Rendering.

The revised contents now comprise eight master class examples of painting and weathering – up from five in the original. Mike uses these models as the blank canvas to demonstrate his wide range of techniques. The eight models are a 10.5cm Sturmhaubitze 42, Befehls Panther Ausf. G, Tiger I Initial Production, Hetzer, Sd.Kfz.251/21, Sd.Kfz.251/22 Pakwagen, Panzer IV mit 8.8cm Flak 37, and a Panzer IV Ausf. E.

The finishes demonstrated are:

- Repainting an older finish
- Soft two-colour camouflage finish
- Distressed winter whitewash Overall Panzer Grey with mud and dust effects
- Hard-edged three-colour scheme
- Winter whitewash over three colour hard-edged scheme
- Winter whitewash over Dark Yellow
- Overall Dark Yellow, heavily chipped and rusted; and
- Desert Yellow over a Panzer Grey base

The finishes are described using three parallel narratives. If you are a visual learner, the photographs will provide a comprehensive guide to the techniques on their own. However, each photo is accompanied by detailed and useful captions that describe the technique in more detail, along with insights into their application by the Author. The body text is very readable and adds another layer of detail to the descriptions.

Each model Chapter is rounded out with a two-page Quick Reference guide summarising every step of painting and weathering for the specific subject.

The photography is the other highlight of the book, beautifully complimenting the outstanding quality of the finishes. All the subjects are evenly lit and brightly presented against a crisp white background. The photos are large - the two page spreads are particularly impressive - and outline the techniques in the most useful sequence.

The overall layout is bright, attractive and consistent too.

The original Tank Art 1 – WWII German Armor was a fantastic guide to painting and weathering the Rinaldi way. This volume offers even more schemes, pages and information. The techniques are extensive, the subjects widely varied, the photography and presentation first rate and the text ably supports the images. If you are looking for a step-by-step guide to obtaining high quality German WWII painting and weathering finishes, this really is the ideal one-stop manual. ■

Available online from Rinaldi Studio Press ***www.rinaldistudiopress.com***

BLENDING
LAYERS
STIPPLING

IDF MAGACH 3

MAIN BATTLE TANK

50th ANNIVERSARY

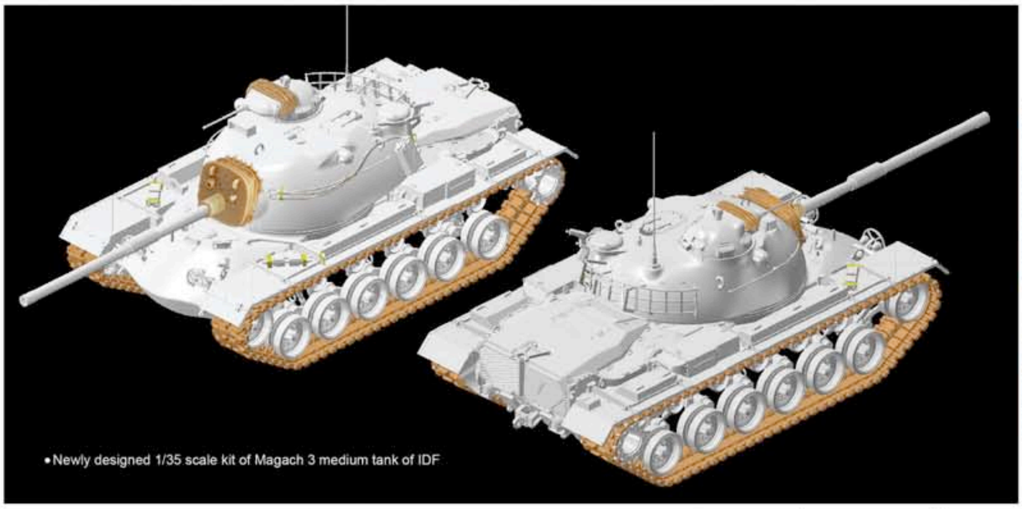
THE SIX-DAY WAR

02

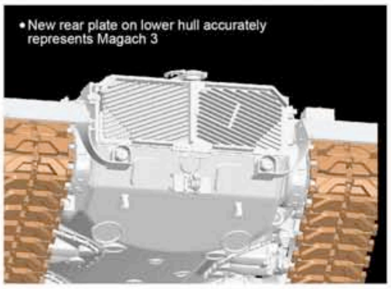
MIDDLE EAST WAR SERIES

DRAGON 3567

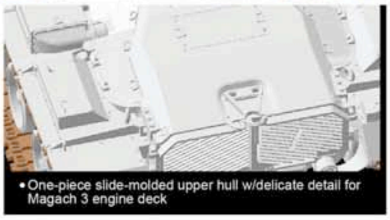
1:35 SCALE



- Newly designed 1/35 scale kit of Magach 3 medium tank of IDF

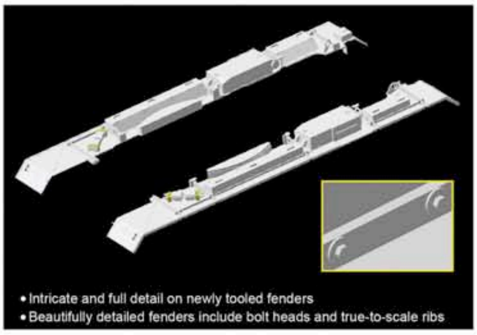


- New rear plate on lower hull accurately represents Magach 3

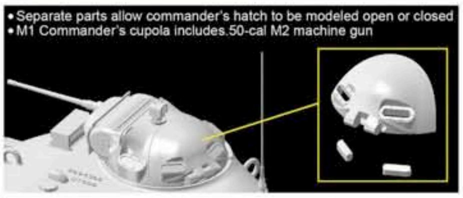


- One-piece slide-molded upper hull w/delicate detail for Magach 3 engine deck

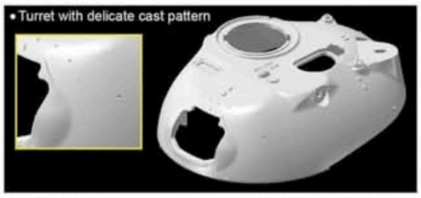
- Tow cables made from metal wire included
- True-to-scale turret stowage basket provided
- 3-directional slide-molded turret for Magach 3 produced as single piece



- Intricate and full detail on newly tooled fenders
- Beautifully detailed fenders include bolt heads and true-to-scale ribs



- Separate parts allow commander's hatch to be modeled open or closed
- M1 Commander's cupola includes.50-cal M2 machine gun

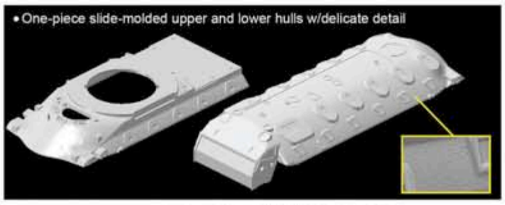


- Turret with delicate cast pattern

- Gun barrel travel lock can be shown in travel or combat modes

- Coincidence rangefinder mounted on turret sides

- Headlights w/subtle detail realistically produced

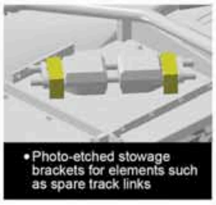


- One-piece slide-molded upper and lower hulls w/delicate detail

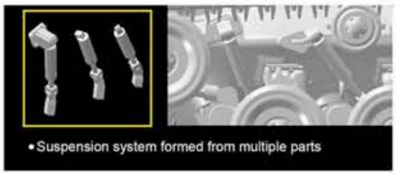
- Well-defined ventilator cover on turret rear

- Rear hull and engine deck produced w/excellent level of detail

- Hull rear w/authentic engine grill and molded-on latch handles



- Photo-etched stowage brackets for elements such as spare track links

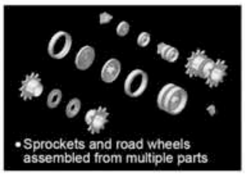


- Suspension system formed from multiple parts

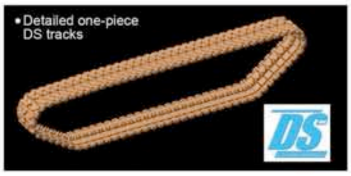
8694366
U1608

- Casting numbers molded on hull

- Front vision ports including crystal-clear parts



- Sprockets and road wheels assembled from multiple parts



- Detailed one-piece DS tracks

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With synchronized lights and sounds for stunning realism

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★Length: 532mm ★Width: 202mm ★Height: 130mm

1/16 SCALE

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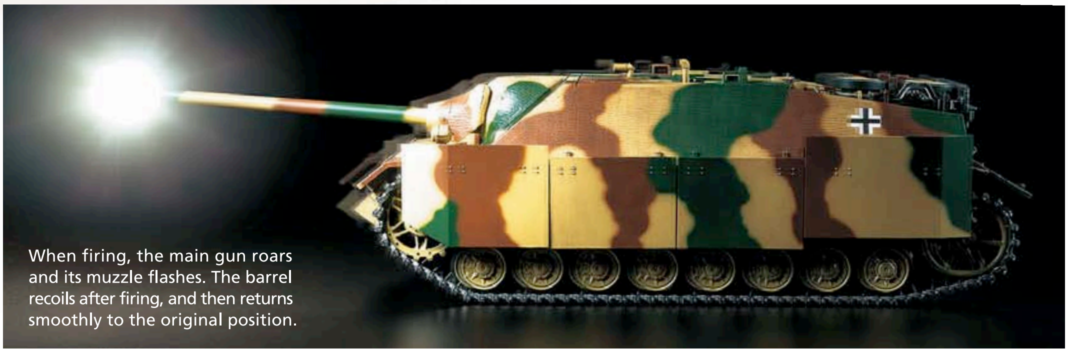
●Requires separately-sold 4ch R/C transmitter and receiver, battery pack and compatible charger, plus transmitter batteries.

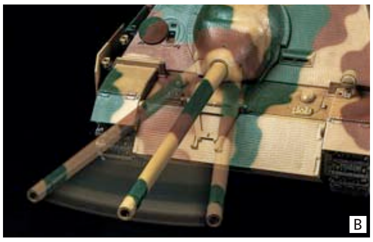
(Sd.Kfz.162/1)

JAGDPANZER IV /70(V) LANG



When firing, the main gun roars and its muzzle flashes. The barrel recoils after firing, and then returns smoothly to the original position.

A



B

C

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